

SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Nome Mini-Convention Center
Nome, Alaska
October 25, 2017
9:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Fred Eningowuk. Acting Chair
Tom Gray
Louis Green
Brandon Ahmasuk
Ronald Kirk
Leland Oyoumick
Charles Saccheus
Elmer Seetot

Regional Council Coordinator - Karen Deatherage

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Nome, Alaska - 10/25/2017)

(On record)

ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Good morning, everybody. I'll call this meeting back to order. The first order of business is introductions. We'll start off with our Council and then move onto the floor. Starting from my right side.

MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr., Brevig Mission.

MR. OYOUNICK: Leland Oyoumick, Unalakleet.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Hi. My name is Karen Deatherage. I'm the Council coordinator for the Office of Subsistence Management. Thank you everyone for being here.

ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Fred Eningowuk from Shishmaref.

MR. KIRK: Ronald Kirk, Stebbins.

MR. SACCHEUS: Charles Saccheus, Elim.

MR. AHMASUK: Brandon Ahmasuk, Nome.

MR. GRAY: Tom Gray, Nome.

MS. LAVINE: Robbin LaVine, anthropologist, Office of Subsistence Management.

MR. MASON: James Mason, Nome Nugget newspaper.

MR. GREEN: Louis Green is online.

MS. MIKOW: Beth Mikow, ADF&G Division of Subsistence.

MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National Park Service, Nome.

MR. ASHENFELTER: Roy Ashenfelter with

1 Kawerak.

2

3 MS. HUGHES: Letty Hughes with Alaska
4 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife
5 Conservation in Nome.

6

7 MS. DEBENHAM: My name is Rosalie
8 Debenham. I work for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I
9 live in Juneau.

10

11 MS. WORKER: I'm Suzanne Worker. I'm a
12 wildlife biologist with OSM.

13

14 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning, Members of
15 the Council. I'm Carl Johnson. I'm the Council
16 Coordination Division Chief with OSM.

17

18 DR. CHEN: Hi. My name is Glenn Chen
19 with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

20

21 MR. DUNKER: Bill Dunker with Fish and
22 Game based here in Nome.

23

24 MR. GORN: Tony Gorn. I'm the Region 5
25 Regional Supervisor for Fish and Game based in Nome.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Welcome you
28 all. Introduction on whoever is on the phone.

29

30 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair. This is Louis,
31 Nome.

32

33 CHRISTINE: Christine.....

34

35 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thanks for
36 attending, Louis. Do we have anybody else on the
37 phone.

38

39 MS. DAMBERG: This is Carol Damberg
40 with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of.....

41

42 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE:subsistence
43 coordinator, Anchorage.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you. Do
46 we have any testimonies from the tribe, ANCSA
47 corporations or the public.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Hearing none.
2 We'll proceed with the agenda. First on the agenda we
3 have the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. I'll
4 turn it over to Robbin.

5
6 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 Members of the Council. For the record my name is
8 Robbin LaVine and I'm an anthropologist with the Office
9 of Subsistence Management. If you would like to turn,
10 I've got a PowerPoint presentation behind you. You
11 don't need to watch it. All the information will be in
12 my presentation as well.

13
14 Today I'll be presenting you with a
15 brief overview of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
16 Program and its accomplishments to date. I'll review
17 the funding process, your regional overview, the
18 northern region, and finish up by requesting your
19 comments on the proposed 2018 Fisheries Resource
20 Monitoring Program for the Northern Alaska Region. No
21 motion will be necessary.

22
23 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring
24 Program materials begin on Page 337 of your Council
25 books. For those in the audience the Council books are
26 available off to my right and you can follow along.
27 I'll be referencing some of the materials in your
28 books, but many of them will also be present in the
29 presentation.

30
31 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring
32 Program is a multidisciplinary collaborative effort
33 that enhances subsistence fisheries research and
34 provide necessary information for the management of
35 subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands in
36 Alaska. We encourage partnerships between tribes,
37 rural organizations, universities and Federal and State
38 agencies. In addition, we encourage interdisciplinary
39 approaches to conducting research and addressing
40 issues.

41
42 The Monitoring Program is administered
43 through the Office of Subsistence Management in order
44 to advance projects of strategic importance to the
45 Federal Subsistence Management Program. It also
46 coordinates communications and information sharing of
47 ongoing and new subsistence research efforts.

48
49 Since its inception in 2000 the
50

1 Monitoring Program has funded 452 projects statewide
2 with a total allocation of close to \$117 million.
3 These figures demonstrate both the allocation of funds
4 and the number of projects funded through the
5 Monitoring Program by the organization of the principal
6 investigator. It should be noted that some of these
7 funds have been used by principal investigators for
8 sub-awards with research partners such as communities,
9 tribes and other research organizations.

10
11 So this slide demonstrates the
12 allocation of funds by region. Budget guidelines
13 provide an initial target for planning, however they
14 are not final and are often adjusted as needed to
15 ensure that we fund quality projects.

16
17 How the FRMP funding process works.
18 The state is divided into six regions that
19 approximately correspond to Federal subsistence
20 fisheries areas and to stock harvest and community
21 issues that those areas hold in common.

22
23 I'm going to review for you five steps
24 to the FRMP funding process that span approximately two
25 year cycle. Step one. For each of the six regions
26 Office of Subsistence Management Staff works with
27 Regional Advisory Councils and Federal and State
28 fishery and land managers to ensure the monitoring
29 program focuses on the highest priority subsistence
30 fishery information needs.

31
32 Input and guidance from Councils are
33 used to develop priority information needs by
34 identifying issues of local concern and knowledge gaps
35 related to subsistence fisheries. Ideally, principal
36 investigators will work closely with Councils in order
37 to develop strong proposals that are responsive to
38 those needs. The Office of Subsistence Management
39 provides technical assistance as needed.

40
41 Step two. The program requests new
42 projects every two years. Submissions must be
43 complete, on time and address five criteria outlined in
44 the notice of funding opportunity in order to be
45 competitive. Those criteria are strategic priority,
46 technical and scientific merit, investigator ability
47 and resources, partnership and capacity building and
48 the cost benefit of the project. A more detailed
49 description of the five criteria can be found on Page

50

1 342 of your Council books.

2

3 Step three. Proposal evaluation. Once
4 submitted a Technical Review Committee evaluates and
5 rates each proposed project. The Technical Review
6 Committee is a standing interagency committee of senior
7 technical experts brought together to ensure program
8 transparency.

9

10 It is the responsibility of the
11 Technical Review Committee to develop the strongest
12 possible monitoring program for your region and across
13 the state based on high-quality cost-effective projects
14 that address critical subsistence questions.

15

16 During the proposal evaluation process
17 the Technical Review Committee adheres to specific
18 guidelines in order to assess how well a project
19 addressed the five criteria. While some agencies have
20 more than one senior expert on the committee, like a
21 social scientist or biologist for one agency each, each
22 agency only provides one single consolidated review and
23 will not score their own proposals. The final score
24 for each proposal is based on an assessment of the five
25 criteria.

26

27 Step four. Council input and comments.
28 Once a draft Monitoring Plan for 2018 is developed it
29 is brought before the Regional Advisory Councils for
30 their input and comments. This is actually where we
31 are in the two-year cycle today and we'll be coming
32 back to your comments and your discussion at the end of
33 this presentation.

34

35 Step five. Federal Subsistence Board
36 review and final funding plan. Additional comments on
37 the process and draft 2018 Monitoring Plan for the
38 Northern Alaska Region are provided by the Interagency
39 Staff Committee and these, along with those comments
40 developed by the Councils, are then forwarded to the
41 Federal Subsistence Board.

42

43 The Board takes into consideration
44 comments and concerns generated by the process and
45 endorses the funding plan. Final approval of the
46 funding plan is made by the Assistance Regional
47 Director of OSM.

48

49 The Northern Alaska Region overview.

50

1 So in your region 49 projects have been undertaken for
2 approximately \$12 million in funding since 2000. You
3 can find those projects conducted in the Seward Pen
4 region on Page 356 of your Council book. There are 10
5 projects in total.

6
7 Project leads are predominantly held by
8 the State of Alaska or the Department of the Interior,
9 but remember most of those projects also include other
10 agency and Alaska rural organizations as research
11 partners.

12
13 For 2018 there is an anticipated \$1-1.5
14 million available for new projects statewide and up to
15 \$1.6 million available for ongoing projects that are
16 already funded. Please note that the available funding
17 for 2018 is budgeted for each project's first year
18 costs and not the cost of the project in total.

19
20 For the Northern Region seven projects
21 were submitted. The projects are listed in order by
22 the strength of their Technical Review Committee
23 scores. Justifications for project order begin on Page
24 350 of your Council book and project abstracts can be
25 found on Page 357.

26
27 You may want to note that these
28 projects are in response to the priority information
29 needs that were developed last fall and those can be
30 found for your reference on Page 347 as well.

31
32 So once again we are here at step four.
33 The Council input and comments and any discussion you
34 might bring forward to the FRMP funding process. We're
35 looking for your input and comments on the draft
36 Monitoring Program for your region. No motion is
37 necessary.

38
39 To start off, some of the points you
40 may want to consider for your comments would be
41 proposal alignment with the priority information needs
42 found on Page 347, proposal score order and how that
43 aligns with what you feel is important to your region.
44 Proposal abstracts and just the overall FRMP funding
45 cycle and process.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49 I'm ready for your questions and
50

1 comments.

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 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, do we
have any comments from the Council.

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 Yes, Leland.

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 MR. OYOUNICK: Yeah, as far as our
Unalakleet project for chinook, the people with OSM
contacted me, namely Karen Deatherage, and set up a
little tour of our weir on our river. We took off and
we went up there. I waited for them and they came in a
different boat. Karen Deatherage wasn't there but
Karen Hyer and another fellow was there. I can't
remember his name. There was a worker from Unalakleet,
Mischa, and then I forget the guy's name. He's from
Nome.

 Anyway, we looked at it and we were
kind of leery at home because we didn't know what they
were doing. We didn't know if they were actually
physically grabbing the fish and looking at them that
way, but they don't touch the fish with their hands or
nothing. The old folks didn't want us to do that, play
with our food, you know, like in such a way like that.

 That's what people at home were kind of
leery of, but that's not the way it is. They have a
system down where they can collect their data without
touching the fish at all. There's a little cage set up
and when the salmon goes through there they examine it
and they monitor it 24 hours a day. When it gets dark
they turn lights on and they could see all the time.
This year we had -- after I went up the river came up
quite a bit, so I guess by then the kings were all done
pretty much anyway.

 I don't know. I'll support this because
we hardly have kings anymore. I don't know how it is
in other areas close by but I'm sure they're impacted
by low kings also because commercialization of kings
has been shut down and there's limited -- people still
get kings and people still put away, but the thing
about them that they get kings and put them away,
they're very good eating and they don't want to waste
them and they take good care of them and process them
the way they have learned, the way they have been
taught. For the most part they're delicious.

1 Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you,
4 Leland. Do you have any comments on that, Robbin?

5

6 MS. LAVINE: No. Simply, through the
7 Chair, thank you very much for your discussion.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Tom.

10

11 MR. GRAY: It never ends, does it?
12 Tom's on the dealibob here. Well, I have been vocal, I
13 guess, since I got on this board about the fisheries
14 program. I have been told time and time again that you
15 don't have Federal lands over there, we can't justify
16 spending money in your region. There's been times I've
17 said no silver salmon going to Federal lands in the
18 Bendeleben Mountains and there was some reason we
19 couldn't go there.

20

21 You know the sad part of this issue is
22 we have subsistence users that are Federally qualified
23 for this region here in Nome, west of here, where there
24 are no Federal lands and yet we're feeding off of the
25 same resource, the fish resource that comes to Norton
26 Sound. Some areas are very deprived. Our king salmon
27 resource that goes into Fish River, the State, through
28 their wisdom, got rid of the escapement goals so they
29 don't have to manage that fishery.

30

31 These fish, all of us depend on the
32 fish. You look at Nome. We were in a Tier II
33 situation years ago. Granted, maybe Nome isn't, quote,
34 Federal lands, but all this land came from the Federal
35 government and was blessed to the State and the Native
36 corporations and so on and so forth in the last how
37 many years.

38

39 I think through collaboration, through
40 different agencies working together, we need to address
41 all the issues in Norton Sound, not just, quote, the
42 Federal land areas. As collaborators, there's local
43 people, the State of Alaska, all the different Federal
44 agencies. We need to take a hard look at this area and
45 address the needs in this area. The needs have been
46 ignored for a long, long time.

47

48 Some of the fisheries have come back
49 over time. I hate to say it, but most managers have

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1 this let's wait and see what happens attitude and don't
2 really get into the nitty-gritty of what's going on. I
3 take my hat off to NSEDC and the State in trying to
4 manage the red resource that has taken a bulk of the
5 weight off of the rest of the fisheries because all of
6 us are at Pilgrim River trying to get reds to fill our
7 freezer instead of silver salmon.

8
9 Anyway, the point I wanted to make is
10 we're all Federally qualified users in this region and
11 they are dependent on fisheries, not -- how can I say
12 this. Because of them, you know, the State has a lot
13 of land. You look at 22C there's hardly any Federal
14 lands in there, but there's still Federally qualified
15 users and they have issues with fisheries. I think we
16 need to work as joining agencies to address these
17 needs.

18
19 I'll get off the soapbox.

20
21 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair. This is Louis.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Louis.

24
25 Thank you, Tom.

26
27 MR. GREEN: I'll echo Tommy's concerns.
28 One of the biggest concerns I have that the co-
29 management between the Feds and the State hasn't been
30 happening is because -- you know, I've requested and
31 this Council has requested a migratory study. We have
32 no idea where these fish are coming from and where
33 they're going to.

34
35 We don't know how they distribute
36 themselves through the Norton Sound and Bering Straits.
37 They're swimming through Federal waters, they rear in
38 Federal waters, then they come in the State waters and
39 then all of a sudden they don't become a Federal
40 concern anymore.

41
42 Tommy talked about how the silvers go
43 up through into the Bendelebens. They're going through
44 State waters, State land and then all of a sudden
45 you're in Federal lands or something. So how do we tie
46 the shows? I don't know. We talk about the existence
47 of co-management between the State and the Feds. This
48 would be one necessary project to be done up there.

49
50

1 When Fish and Game opened commercial
2 fisheries in the '70s up there in the Nome area and
3 throughout the region there, they didn't do any kind of
4 studies about anything to do with bio -- what do you
5 call it -- the amount of fish, carrying capacity of the
6 rivers.

7
8 They had no -- Len Schwarz was the
9 manager at the time. He told me, when I asked him at a
10 Board of Fish meeting back in the '90s what you did
11 before, he said we didn't do anything. I was just
12 directed to open. So we don't have any clue about
13 carrying capacity of anything and that's always a word
14 that comes up.

15
16 So how do we get to this -- how do we
17 find a reasonable study that the State and the Feds can
18 work together on. I think the migratory thing is a
19 necessary component in this whole deal of management.
20 So I'm pounding the table again on that one. I think
21 we were told it couldn't be done. I forgot what became
22 of it two years ago.

23
24 Anyway, our rivers are healthy. We
25 have a red run that's being nurtured by fertilization
26 of Salmon Lake. Our old friend, the vice chair that we
27 had, Tim Smith, was one of those people that initiated
28 that to begin with. So fertilization is working, but
29 we've got other rivers that aren't producing anything.

30
31 What really hurts me and hurts us
32 politically and biologically is we have a commercial
33 fishery off the shores of Nome now. I've been to many,
34 many Board of Fish meetings in the '90s into the 2000's
35 where you guys are killing off your own runs. Your
36 rivers are too small to support a fishery. I kind of
37 think maybe that might be true.

38
39 The other fact is we've had arguments
40 with Area M fishermen on State fisheries, but there's
41 also the Federal. We've got the pollock, homing back
42 in on the State fishery. We've got people intercepting
43 mixed stocks down in Area M along the Aleutians. We
44 fought with those people a thousand miles away. We
45 still don't know what's going on in Norton Sound. How
46 many of our fish are intercepted in the eastern Norton
47 Sound before they even get to our rivers in the far end
48 of the district in Nome.

49
50

1 There was word that we're catching chum
2 salmon that go to Kotzebue. When they had a hatchery
3 coming up our way back in the '70s it ended up in
4 Kotzebue on the Noatak River called the Sikusuilaq Hot
5 Springs Hatchery that the State ran for 14 years that
6 produced chum salmon. They've got record runs up
7 there. Their fishery was way stronger than ours is in
8 Norton Sound.

9
10 So, you know, if their waters -- if
11 we're tying things from a thousand miles away and we
12 connect with things that are all the way up in the
13 Kotzebue area, why can't we get this study done on this
14 migration is a big question mark to me.

15
16 Anyway, I've gone on long enough.

17
18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes. Thank
21 you, Louis. Any comments, Robbin?

22
23 MS. LAVINE: No. I'm just writing
24 furiously. Thank you, Mr. Chair and Louis.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Leland.

27
28 MR. OYOUNICK: I have one question.
29 When Louis mentioned migratory, I just wondered if on
30 the high seas and their fishery that they do with
31 whatever they get out there in the big ocean, they
32 trawl for them. I wondered if there's bycatch and such
33 with kings because our king stocks have depleted quite
34 a bit.

35
36 I did my own thing and when I traveled
37 around this area from different villages I asked
38 questions just for my own information. We didn't have
39 that many kings that year and I asked these questions
40 when I went to different villages.

41
42 Like when I went to Elim I asked Abel
43 Saccheus -- he cut and stripped his own fish and I
44 asked him about kings. He said it was unusual that
45 year. I said unusual. He said, yeah, there's more
46 than usual.

47
48 So I wondered if the counting towers
49 that were being counted by sonar or something

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1 electronic like that was affecting the fish. I was
2 curious about that and I still am. I don't know if
3 I'll get an answer, but I'd like to know that fact.

4

5 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes.

8

9 MS. LAVINE: Can I clarify that you
10 were concerned that the counting towers and weir
11 processes were impacting the fish or whether they were
12 recording an impact, a decline of the fish in that
13 particular year?

14

15 MR. OYOUNICK: The animals that go
16 after these fish, like beluga whales, they use sonar.
17 When you use sonar to count fish, does that impact if
18 fish keep going up our river or turn around? That's my
19 question about that sonar thing. It's just something I
20 thought of because Mr. Charles Saccheus says belugas do
21 hunt fish. Their favorite is silvers. I guess if
22 there were more kings, probably their favorite would be
23 kings.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Robbin.

26

27 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair. I'm taking all
28 of your comments down. This is a wonderful discussion
29 that you'll probably revisit in a year from now as we
30 develop a new cycle's list of priority information
31 needs. We're getting better at keeping track of all of
32 your comments so that they're brought forward again and
33 you can review them in a year as we develop a new call
34 for proposals.

35

36 I'm wondering if you have any comments
37 aside from the Unalakleet River weir of the proposals
38 for this year's funding cycle. They're on the screen.
39 It looks also like Mr. Gray may have other comments for
40 it as well. But I'm thinking we can kind of cover both
41 if you're interested.

42

43 Thank you very much.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Tom.

46

47 MR. GRAY: I don't have a question on
48 the funding cycle, per se, but I do have a question.
49 You know, every year we come here, like Louis raised

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1 the issue about fish traveling all the way to -- the
2 migration patterns. I keep ranting about let's do
3 studies in our areas. This has been going on for
4 years.

5
6 How do we get the State and the Feds or
7 the Feds to sit down at some point and say, yeah, we're
8 going to work together. No, this isn't going to
9 happen. Yeah, we have answers for migration. No, we
10 don't have answers and we won't have answers. You
11 know, we need an ending to this.

12
13 I've been here for I bet 10 years
14 raising issues about fisheries in State lands that
15 don't have much Federal lands and I keep getting the
16 same answer. No, we can't do anything or they wanted
17 us to go list rivers or do something and I didn't
18 understand that part of that.

19
20 Again, I think the Feds and the State
21 need to sit down and say this is eligible, this isn't,
22 and then come back to us and say this is eligible and
23 this isn't and quit your squawking or squawk louder.
24 You know, if we have to go to our congressional
25 delegation to get solutions, we need to hear that.

26
27 I've gone to too many meetings and
28 gotten frustrated and walked away from those meetings
29 and quit those boards because staff takes a whipping
30 for a day in a meeting and then they got 364 days of
31 the year that they don't have to worry about Tom Gray.

32
33 Again, what I'm trying to push here is
34 I would like to see the State and the Feds sit down and
35 discuss what can be done in this region in lands that
36 don't have much Federal lands and what can we do to
37 help the Federally qualified users in the areas that
38 don't have much State lands.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you,
43 Tom. Any comments, Robbin.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Ronald.

48
49 MR. KIRK: I have a comment. We live
50

1 in an area in Stebbins where we have commercial fishing
2 happening down south and they tell us that we're
3 intercepting these commercial fisheries in our area,
4 but what I asked last year is can we get a monitoring
5 system set up in our Pikmiktalik River, which is
6 freshwater, and we have our own stock of fish that go
7 up this Pikmiktalik River. We have kings that are
8 coming in our area, but this year the king run was
9 pretty low.

10

11 When I was a young man, an elder, my
12 uncle, when I was probably 14 years old or so, he took
13 me out on the ice during May when the lead opened and
14 he put a king salmon net in the ice. He had me help
15 him and I was wondering why we were putting a net in
16 the ice. The next day when we went to go check it, lo
17 and behold he caught a king under the ice. So the fish
18 swim early May under the ice and we need to monitor the
19 fish earlier than when you start your monitoring
20 programming.

21

22 I'd like to see a monitoring of our
23 stock in our area in our rivers. We have one, two,
24 three, four rivers that go up in our area. One river
25 it connects to St. Michael Island. It's called Canal
26 River. Right above it there's a freshwater lake that
27 has its own stock of whitefish. I don't think you guys
28 are aware of that, but we have our own whitefish up
29 there and we have our own freshwater fish that go down
30 to Pikmiktalik and Koyuk. They have fresh waters way
31 up and the fish do go in there.

32

33 So I'd like to see more monitoring in
34 our area because we don't have that. We've been trying
35 to open our area for commercial fishing for pinks and
36 they keep telling us that they won't do it because
37 we'll be interfering with Unalakleet fishery and Lower
38 Yukon fishery. But I'd like to see a monitoring
39 program in our area.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you,
44 Ronald. Robbin, no comment. Yeah, I have a comment.
45 I'm from Shishmaref and we're surrounded by Federal
46 lands and we're in the Chukchi Sea. As maybe everybody
47 knows that we're not a NSEDC community even though
48 we're in the Bering Strait region.

49

50

1 The only way we can become an NSEDC
2 community is through an act of Congress. I believe
3 that's where that Magnuson-Stevenson Act. So we're
4 kind of left out of all the funding in fisheries with
5 the NSEDC. Sometimes I feel like we're in our own
6 little nation being a Bering Strait community and yet
7 we're left out of that NSEDC program.

8
9 I'm thankful we did a proposal or
10 something and we rank number three for the FY18
11 funding. That's a Bering Land Bridge Preserve TEK and
12 scientific survey. Previously they did with Kawerak
13 the non-salmon survey, so there are other data that can
14 be looked into to work with this project, the project
15 18150. I looked at the agenda and I believe this is
16 the only fisheries we have on our agenda.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes. Do we
23 have any more comments from the Council.

24
25 Yes, Elmer.

26
27 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig
28 Mission. Mr. Ahmasuk and Mr. Eningowuk stated
29 yesterday that there was walrus washing up offshore due
30 to PSP. Many of our fish go out in the open sea during
31 the winter. The majority of our fish are thriving are
32 our fry that are in these lakes that have hatched from
33 eggs during the late summer, early fall.

34
35 I noticed that in newspaper clippings
36 there was also bird die-offs in certain places. Are
37 fish that do winter in the waters outside of Federal
38 land, who has jurisdiction in these waters where
39 studies can be made because they are talking about
40 climate change and yet we are talking about the river
41 systems under Federal land. Who has jurisdiction on
42 these waters where our fish -- where everything that --
43 each one another, you know, is that going up the food
44 chain? If it's PSP on walrus, on claims.

45
46 And then if the fish eating fish as it
47 goes along the food chain, is there anything from the
48 origin that is the main culprit? What I'm trying to
49 say is that standing water in Brevig Mission produces
50

1 algae. Over the years I'm seeing more and more algae,
2 even standing small puddles of water. I thought that
3 algae was something that just only grew on lakes and
4 streams.

5
6 I went up the Agiapuk River during the
7 past summer and I was seeing algae on the bottom of
8 these river beds. Very strange because I think during
9 the early spring, early summer we had very small
10 rainfall and water -- the sun heated the water in
11 shallow spots and then produced algae.

12
13 In and around Imuruk Basin since I can
14 remember I know there was algae coming from Imuruk
15 Basin being so shallow. We had a record number for
16 reds going up the Pilgrim or to Salmon Lake. Many of
17 the fish that were caught were pretty healthy, but last
18 time I went fishing for white fish there was some kind
19 of mold on one of the fishes. Is it due to the warming
20 waters where they swim or is from manmade pollution?

21
22 There's a lot of gray water that goes
23 into the Bering Straits or to our waters from the
24 sewage discharge, gray water from that. We don't know
25 what's all being discharged into our waters from
26 boaters. Yet we have a lot of trash that comes out or
27 a lot of debris that comes from other nations. What is
28 the aftereffects of these items being in the water for
29 so long? Do they leach out or anything like that?

30
31 NSEDC proposed or has done
32 fertilization projects up and around Salmon Lake. When
33 they first did that, I mentioned is there any
34 aftereffects either from the chemicals or from the food
35 fish that is discharged into the Pilgrim River waters.
36 Does that spur weed growth under water or does that
37 help certain fish stocks within the river system?

38
39 My main concern was that what if a
40 runoff came from Salmon Lake was also affecting the
41 waterways in and around that area. Our waters are
42 warming to a point where they produce their own toxic
43 algae at times and that's what we're not really aware
44 of at this time other than PSP on walrus dying off from
45 that.

46
47 So that's something that we need to
48 look at very closely. I'm just trying to figure out
49 whose jurisdiction is out there in the open sea.

50

1 Because these fish that go out there they grew up there
2 or they increase in size and then they go to these
3 waters where they were born. That's the only thing
4 that we're kind of talking about, this fish that goes
5 in certain waters. Oh, it's on Federal land -- it's on
6 State land.

7
8 Fish have no distinction between that
9 other than I still say I'm opposed to NSEDC opening a
10 commercial fishery for red salmon. I know that red
11 salmon is number one in flavor for our residents. We
12 prefer the red salmon, then maybe king and then silver.
13 So that's something that we're going to see over the
14 years is increased water temperatures around certain
15 areas and then what else do they have. The warm waters
16 produce something that will be harmful, you know, to
17 anything that use these waters.

18
19 That's all I have.

20
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you,
24 Elmer.

25
26 Charles.

27
28 MR. SACCHEUS: I have something to add
29 to Mr. Kirk's. When he mentioned about monitoring our
30 salmon, a few years back, maybe in the late '60s and
31 early '70s, the Fish and Game had a monitoring program.
32 They tagged some salmon down at the False
33 Pass/Aleutians. They tagged some salmon down there and
34 we've been getting them in our streams. Either
35 Tubutulik and Quinhagak, we've been getting them salmon
36 from down there.

37
38 Later on that year they had a program
39 tagging some in Bethel and we've been getting tagged
40 fish from Bethel. They go all the way up our streams.
41 When Mr. Kirk was wondering if Fish and Game always
42 monitored them salmon, I think they did in the late
43 '60s, early 70's. The Fish and Game always put a \$2
44 reward or \$1 reward on each tag so you could put them
45 in the mail and mail them to Fish and Game.

46
47 I've been hearing a lot of concerns
48 about not only them big trawlers that get our salmon
49 and they just throw them overboard after they put them
50

1 on deck and that's a big problem with them big
2 trawlers. They throw our salmon away.

3
4 Another thing, the last part of May
5 maybe five, ten years ago, National Marine Fisheries
6 Service they put me on an Air Commander and some of the
7 Alaska Beluga Whaling Committee people put us on the
8 Air Commander and we counted fish all the way from
9 Koyuk and we'd come all the way out to Bering Sea, all
10 the way front of Nome.

11
12 We count quite a few beluga whale out
13 there. You know those beluga whale they always eat 10
14 salmon a day. They don't chew them. They've got teeth
15 but they don't chew them. They just swallow them. Not
16 only the human beings, commercial fishermen, intercept
17 our salmon, there's a lot of beluga out there. There's
18 six stocks of beluga in our waters out there. Six
19 stocks. They've got different DNA. Each beluga got
20 different DNA just like human beings. So when we get
21 beluga, we study their liver and for any kind of
22 chemicals.

23
24 When you fly around, when we were
25 counting beluga out there, man, you should see these
26 Styrofoam cups floating all over the whole Norton
27 Sound. There's the quart cans. You know, they'd close
28 them and they'd just throw them overboard after they
29 empty them in their gas tanks.

30
31 I don't know when they're going to
32 start monitoring them salmon again, putting markers on
33 and numbers on them. Anyway, we always get some of
34 those fish in our streams. It's Quinhagak, Tubutulik
35 and that's a good project. That's a good way to find
36 out about where the fish go and where they come from.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you,
41 Charles. I believe we need to move on on our agenda if
42 we have no further comments. Do we have any comments
43 from the public.

44
45 MR. ASHENFELTER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 This is Roy Ashenfelter with Kawerak. There's several
47 suggestions. There's been a lot of studies in our
48 region in regards to fisheries. What needs to happen
49 is probably a report to either this body or a body of
50

1 people concerned about the studies that are currently
2 -- that have happened.

3
4 There's been local in-stream studies
5 for chum, for reds, for kings, so that information is
6 available. How they're doing, what's going on and
7 what's happening is apparently a mystery question even
8 though those studies have occurred and are currently
9 going on. They're important to learn about.

10
11 The other one concerning the open
12 fishery that Ron was talking about, you have an
13 interception fishery in Area M, but you can't have an
14 interception fishery in our region. There's something
15 wrong with that. This is not a Federal thing. This is
16 a State Fish and Game thing that is unfair at the very
17 least.

18
19 On the open ocean fishery studies that
20 have occurred there have been -- I went to a fishery
21 meeting and I got kicked out by the way. There was a
22 group that involved the Kawerak president, that
23 involved Yukon fishery subsistence users, that involved
24 Area M fishermen, that involved -- I believe Charlie
25 Lean was there for our Region 2.

26
27 The study was on chum and what's
28 happening with the chum and the analysis. So that
29 information should be made public because it's valuable
30 in terms of what do you do next with that information.
31 So the work has occurred. What's not familiar is how
32 this was spread out and shared with the people that
33 have concerns over fisheries.

34
35 What we want to prevent at the end of
36 the day is another Tier II fishery in our region,
37 wherever, even in Alaska. That involves participating
38 in Fish and Game meetings, Board of Fish meetings and
39 making sure that the interception that they do down in
40 Area M is controlled and better managed. And with the
41 Federal fisheries in regards to the bycatch of chum
42 that they throw overboard. I believe it's 300,000
43 pounds.

44
45 Anyway, to me, there's been a lot of
46 work in our region, but I think a process to share it
47 better to get what other information do you want to
48 learn about that would help the Federal government here
49 share funding resources with the State, which would be
50

1 a good goal to achieve to me.

2

3 For example the studies done in
4 Unalakleet. I believe those qualify as Federal
5 streams. Why not just put all the Federal funding in
6 that and let the State funds go to some other part of
7 our streams. Anyway, that would take coordination,
8 thinking and processes that don't seem to be in the
9 works right now.

10

11 So those are my comments in regards to
12 studies that have occurred in our region for a long
13 time and have had success in certain streams, but the
14 other studies that I mentioned have occurred and need
15 to continue and probably a report to our region as a
16 whole as to what's been accomplished, what would be
17 helpful to new ideas to get a better idea of all these
18 fisheries.

19

20 Those are my comments.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you,
23 Roy. Any other public comments.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Hearing none.

28

29 We'll move on on the agenda.

30

31 Identify issues for FY2017 annual
32 report.

33

34 Karen.

35

36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 This is Karen Deatherage, the Council Coordinator with
38 the Office of Subsistence Management.

39

40 The annual report is prepared by the
41 Council in draft form at this meeting for fiscal year
42 '17. It largely includes issues that are not
43 regulatory in nature but issues that are important for
44 subsistence in the region.

45

46 The fiscal year 2016 report is in your
47 book on Page 369 and the report has replies from either
48 specific agencies or organizations that were able to
49 respond to some of your concerns. What I suggest is

50

1 everybody taking a couple minutes to review that report
2 and those replies to see if you want to continue with
3 those issues in your 2017 report or whether you feel
4 like those responses were adequate from the last report
5 you put in.

6
7 So after that we can go ahead and
8 invite Council members to share issues they'd like to
9 include in fiscal year 2017 report.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 (Pause)

14
15 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen
16 Deatherage again. Has everybody had an opportunity to
17 look over the report?

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: If so, I'm going to go
22 ahead and read the background information as you all
23 prepare for the draft 2017 report.

24
25 ANILCA established the Annual Reports
26 as the way to bring regional subsistence uses and needs
27 to the Secretaries' attention. The Secretaries
28 delegated this responsibility to the Board. Section
29 805(c) deference includes matters brought forward in
30 the Annual Report.

31
32 The Annual Report provides the Councils
33 an opportunity to address the directors of each of the
34 four Department of Interior agencies and the Department
35 of Agriculture Forest Service in their capacity as
36 members of the Federal Subsistence Board. The Board is
37 required to discuss and reply to each issue in every
38 Annual Report and to take action when within the
39 Board s authority.

40
41 In many cases, if the issue is outside
42 of the Board s authority, the Board will provide
43 information to the Council on how to contact personnel
44 at the correct agency. As agency directors, the Board
45 members have authority to implement most of the actions
46 which would effect the changes recommended by the
47 Councils, even those not covered in Section 805(c).

48
49 The Councils are strongly encouraged to

50

1 take advantage of this opportunity.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: It's open for
6 discussion from the Council.

7

8 Yes, Tom.

9

10 MR. GRAY: In reading this letter,
11 there's two areas that interest me. I guess I'm
12 looking for answers. Number 2, MOU between Federal
13 Subsistence Board and the State of Alaska. Reading
14 this, it sounds like the Federal Board's recommendation
15 is they throw it in the laps of the State to create
16 this MOU.

17

18 I guess my thoughts are it seems to me
19 we need the State and the Feds to sit down and discuss
20 this issue to see if it's feasible to create an MOU.
21 On the State side they have subsistence users. On the
22 Federal side we have Federally qualified subsistence
23 users. So there's reason to come to the table and work
24 out an agreement. There's people behind each of the
25 agencies.

26

27 So I have that question. It looks to
28 me like nothing has happened on number 2. On number 3
29 the Council asked the Board to inform the State the
30 importance of the fishery staff being present at the
31 meeting. Here again we have another year and we do not
32 have Fish and Game with State of Alaska here. How do
33 we get them here?

34

35 I think if we're going to have a
36 working relationship with the State in State waters, we
37 need the State here. We need those folks in our
38 meetings. It's their subsistence users and our
39 Federally qualified subsistence users are using that
40 same resource that's here.

41

42 The answers, I guess, for them to just
43 say, yeah, the State needs to create an MOU and, yeah,
44 they're not here, blah, blah, blah. I'm not happy with
45 that. We need better answers. How do we get the State
46 and the Feds to sit down and discuss a working
47 relationship in State lands. We know the Federal lands
48 works for our programs, but how can we get more
49 programs in State lands.

50

1 Anyway, I'll stop there.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you,
4 Tom.

5

6 Carl, can you respond.

7

8 MR. JOHNSON: Sure, Mr. Chair. Thank
9 you. Good morning again, Members of the Council. Carl
10 Johnson with OSM. Through the Chair. Tom, I apologize
11 for the confusion on number 2.

12

13 There is actually a group of people
14 that consist of staff from OSM and the Department of
15 Fish and Game that is working on revising the MOU
16 together, so it's not just the State doing it by
17 themselves. There is actually a cooperative process
18 going on right now between the State and OSM from the
19 direction of both their board and our board to do that.
20 So that is ongoing and at some point of time hopefully
21 in the future we'll have something for the Councils to
22 look at.

23

24 As for the second part, if I recall
25 correctly, part of the response is that typically the
26 Department of Fish and Game as we all know and as
27 Federal agencies are increasingly too under budget
28 restrictions, so what they do is they'll look at the
29 agenda. If they don't see anything on the agenda that
30 says fisheries, they're not going to send somebody up.
31 However, it can be requested that somebody comes if
32 there needs to be a specific conversation about fish
33 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
34 depending what their travel restrictions are they may
35 not be able to be in the room but may be able to be on
36 the phone.

37

38 So that is something we can arrange,
39 but it's just on a case-by-case basis. Again, they
40 just start with looking at the agenda because they
41 always get copies of that and that kind of guides their
42 decision process.

43

44 MR. GRAY: You know, I guess I struggle
45 with we have the State of Alaska and their fishery
46 program that's housed here in Nome. We have had our
47 meetings here in Nome for years and we can't get the
48 courtesy to get these folks into this meeting room? To
49 me something is wrong. You know, it should be they're

50

1 looking out for the best interests of the fishery
2 program, not their doggone budget and travel budget. I
3 just struggle with it.

4
5 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair. This is Louis.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Louis.

8
9 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 Tommy, I agree with you. We've requested the Department
11 to come to these meetings. I think maybe we need to
12 write a letter to Sam Cotten, the Commissioner of Fish
13 and Game, and request it. You're right, the budget
14 falls by the wayside when it comes to having the
15 important discussion if we need to have one with local
16 or State biologists in the room.

17
18 This is an information platform as well
19 as educational. We should be able to have somebody
20 there in these meetings if we need to ask questions.
21 The Department of Game has done quite well at this and
22 I really appreciate the fact that they're there. I did
23 tell the local manager last year when we had a
24 Department representative for some questioning and
25 conversation about fisheries. I thanked him for having
26 somebody there.

27
28 I'm just like you, when we have
29 questions that we need answered and we need to have
30 conversations, they should be in the room. I would say
31 generate a letter to Sam Cotten.

32
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you,
36 Louis, in response.

37
38 MR. GREEN: By the way, Mr. Chair, Sam
39 Cotten, when I talked to him about it a while back, he
40 said if you want something, write me a letter. Okay,
41 well here we go. This is a good thing to write a
42 letter about.

43
44 Thanks.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you.
47 Any other response from the Council.

48
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 This is Karen Deatherage. If there's a request to
2 generate a letter from the Council to the Commissioner,
3 then it would need to go into the record that the
4 Council is in agreement as a Council to send a letter
5 to the Commissioner.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Carl.
10

11 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 Again, I will suggest that the Council should make a
13 specific request for a particular type of report. I
14 don't think it's helpful the Council just asks for
15 someone to be here to have a conversation because you
16 need to know what kind of conversation you're going to
17 have to know who is the right person to have in the
18 room.

19
20 So generally, typically, the way we do
21 with information requests to the State is we send a
22 request to Jill Klein, who is the special assistant to
23 the Commissioner and we say for this upcoming meeting
24 we would like to have a report on this topic or the
25 Council has questions about this issue, can you please
26 find out if somebody is available.

27
28 So that's going to be a lot more
29 productive than just saying we'd like to have somebody
30 here to have a conversation. Just as a suggestion.

31
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you.

35
36 Tom.

37
38 MR. GRAY: You know, I agree that it
39 would be good to have direct, pointed agenda items to
40 talk about, but sitting here we heard from Ronald
41 talking about intercept fishery and they're shut down,
42 they can't commercial fish down in Stebbins,
43 St. Michael. Those guys are the ones controlling it.
44 There was a discussion here today that they could have
45 interjected and been involved in and yet they're not
46 here and that was just a spur of the moment thing.

47
48 So I think they need to be in every
49 meeting so we can talk about issues whether or not it's
50

1 justified or not.

2

3

4

5

6

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8

9

10 MR. OYOUNICK: Yes, I have a question
11 for Carl. Who do we approach as to how much kings or
12 if they're catching kings on the high seas? Whose
13 question would that be?

14

15

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ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you,
Tom.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair. Louis.

ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Leland.

MR. OYOUNICK: Yes, I have a question
for Carl. Who do we approach as to how much kings or
if they're catching kings on the high seas? Whose
question would that be?

MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. If
it's the high seas, that would not be State
jurisdiction, that would be National Marine Fisheries
Service. North Pacific Fishery Management Council is
going to be the one that's going to be regulating the
activities that are out beyond the three-mile limit
that are in Federal waters, but not our Federal waters,
not this program.

MR. OYOUNICK: If they answer they give
correspondence to what's going on here, what course of
action can we do to -- if they don't give us a report,
what can we do?

MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. So,
again, I know the staff of the North Pacific Fishery
Management Council has been very responsive to requests
from the Regional Advisory Councils to have somebody
give a report. Recently, in the Western Interior
Council when they had a scheduling conflict when they
couldn't have somebody physically in the room, they
still provided a written report or just kind of an
update of what's going on with bycatch and other issues
out in the Bering Sea fisheries.

And then if you can't get a report,
then the Councils have the capacity to send letters
directly to the North Pacific Fishery Management
Council to request information, to comment on if there
are any pending proposals related to bycatch or other
issues and to just maybe even request somebody to come
to a meeting, but normally requests to come to a
meeting can just be handled informally through your
Council coordinator.

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1 MR. OYOUMICK: How about if they don't
2 respond?

3
4 MR. JOHNSON: Well, if there's no
5 response, then you can bring the Federal Subsistence
6 Board in. One of the issues that was raised in the
7 Secretarial Review that was initiated by Secretary
8 Salazar was that if there are activities, rulemaking or
9 permitting activities that are outside of the
10 Interior's authority, then the Board can ask the
11 Secretary of the Interior to bring that to the
12 attention of whoever's authority. In this case it
13 would be Commerce that's in charge of the North Pacific
14 Fishery Management Council. So you can elevate with
15 the assistance of the Federal Subsistence Board.

16
17 MR. OYOUMICK: Thank you.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Karen.

20
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 Member Oyoumick. The North Pacific Fishery Council has
23 actually been very responsive to my other Council, the
24 Kodiak/Aleutians Council's request for information on
25 bycatch and they have an extensive report and we can
26 provide that to the Council and then also they are more
27 than happy to speak to any specific item within that
28 report at the meetings. The Council Members just
29 simply need to let me know so that we can add it to the
30 agenda.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you,
35 Karen. Maybe we could add that to the agenda.

36
37 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Louis.

40
41 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
42 guess what Carl brings to the table is the question of,
43 all right, Fish and Game says what do you want. Well,
44 I guess one of my questions to the State would be when
45 are you going to do a migratory study from the Area M
46 through the Kotzebue Sound migration of salmon stocks
47 so you have better management information.

48
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

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1 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you.
2 Any other comment on the annual report.

3
4 Yes, Karen.

5
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 I do have a couple of recommendations if the Council
8 chooses. It seemed that the Council was very
9 interested in PSP poisoning issues and I think it would
10 be a good thing to put in the annual report that you're
11 seeing some impacts just to keep the Board informed of
12 some of the challenges. I know that we do have some
13 tribes down in the Kodiak/Aleutian Region that do PSP
14 testing within their communities, so that's something
15 that perhaps the Seward Pen Region can look at to try
16 to understand what's going on.

17
18 The other issue that you may consider
19 including in your annual report is the seabird die-
20 offs. Again, those have been included in other annual
21 reports, so it's good for the record to know that the
22 different regions are witnessing these events that are
23 happening along the shores in the coastal areas. So
24 that's another issue that you could include if you
25 choose.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, thank
30 you. That would be good on the report. I heard some
31 comments from other agencies that we need to have
32 somebody to be the lead agency on those studies with
33 the marine mammals dying off. Thank you.

34
35 Okay.

36
37 Let's take a quick 10-minute break.

38
39 (Off record)

40
41 (On record)

42
43 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: We're going to
44 move the agenda a little bit. Next was supposed to be
45 the Northern Caribou Working Group, but we're going to
46 move up the Seward Peninsula Reindeer, Rosalie
47 Debenham.

48
49 You have the floor.

50

1 MS. DEBENHAM: Thank you. For the
2 record, my name is Rosalie Debenham. I work for the
3 Bureau of Indian Affairs. I am the fish and wildlife
4 biologist for the Alaska Region.

5
6 Thank you for this opportunity. I'm
7 pretty happy to be here. I'm out of my comfortable
8 seat in the back, so up here in the front. I'm going
9 to just run through a few updates and then we have a
10 short film and if you guys have any questions, feel
11 free to ask.

12
13 This year the BIA has funded several
14 reindeer projects. The BIA, for the second year in a
15 row, has funded the Nome Eskimo Reindeer Youth Camp
16 where Native Alaskan youth from around the state came
17 to Nome to learn about reindeer husbandry and herding.

18
19 At the camp, the kids ages from nine to
20 eighteen participated in hands-on classes working with
21 reindeer and learning different methods on how to use
22 every part of the reindeer. BIA has also given Koyuk a
23 grant to update the Reindeer Industry Revitalization
24 Strategic Plan. This is to address the new challenges
25 in the current market, on the range and for adaptation
26 to climate change. For example, the advance of
27 diseases due to warmer weather, predation and any other
28 challenges they would like to address and plan for.

29
30 We also funded the Tanana Chiefs
31 Conference and UAF reindeer research program to conduct
32 week-long workshops in the villages for Stevens
33 Village, Ruby Tribal Council and Gwich'in Tribal
34 Council along with an invitation for other people and
35 tribes from the villages to participate. Those will be
36 happening this winter and into next spring.

37
38 Also the Bureau of Indian Affairs
39 currently renewing and reviewing the special use
40 permits for reindeer held at the University of Alaska
41 Fairbanks. The herds at UAF are held in trust by the
42 Department of Interior and managed by the Bureau of
43 Indian Affairs for the benefit of Alaska Native people
44 and the Alaska Native reindeer industry.

45
46 At the Large Animal Research Station at
47 UAF they currently have 43 reindeer. At the Reindeer
48 Research Program they have approximately 120 reindeer
49 with approximately 50 of those scheduled for slaughter.

50

1 Also we have been working with the
2 Alaska Reindeer Council, NRCS, the State of Alaska and
3 UAF to identify potential markets and buyers and
4 funding opportunities for Alaska reindeer herders.

5
6 Currently please be on the lookout for
7 tribes and tribal organizations that next month or
8 perhaps in January, depending on when Congress passes a
9 budget, we will be sending out our request for
10 proposals for grants for tribal youth initiative grant
11 and the invasive species grant.

12
13 In the past two years for Alaska Native
14 tribes pretty much all of them that have applied for
15 this grant have been awarded funding. So that should
16 be mailed out fairly soon to tribal administrators and
17 tribal councils. So keep an eye out for that and I'll
18 try to make sure I notify the tribes up here personally
19 about that.

20
21 Next summer we hope to have two college
22 BIA interns that can come up here to the Seward
23 Peninsula and to other places that have reindeer herds
24 to work with the reindeer herders. Hopefully if
25 everything goes to plan we will have a couple of Alaska
26 Native college students working with the reindeer
27 industry.

28
29 Those are the brief updates I have. We
30 have a film that was put together by the Midnight Sun
31 Reindeer Ranch on the Reindeer Youth Camp that was held
32 the last two years here outside of Nome.

33
34 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Louis.

37
38 MR. GREEN: Through the Chair. I had a
39 couple questions about reindeer.

40
41 I didn't catch your name. I'm sorry.

42
43 MS. DEBENHAM: That's okay. It's
44 Rosalie Debenham.

45
46 MR. GREEN: Hi, Rosalie.

47
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Louis Green. This is
49 Karen Deatherage. Could you hold the questions until
50

1 after we show the film.

2

3 MR. GREEN: Yeah, that's not a problem.

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you so much.

6

7 MR. GREEN: Thank you. You bet.

8

9 (Playing video)

10

11 MS. DEBENHAM: Okay. So that was put
12 together by the Davis Ranch. It's about the Nome
13 Eskimos Reindeer Youth Camp. Anyway, a lot of hard
14 work went into putting the camp on for two years in a
15 row. It's been fairly successful and we've had the
16 same students returning each year. So it's been good
17 to be able to build on the knowledge they learned first
18 year and move on to the second year. We're still
19 looking for funding to do the camp again this upcoming
20 year in 2018.

21

22 If you guys have any questions, please
23 let me know.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Tom.

26

27 MR. GRAY: How do we get funding for
28 our fisheries here on State lands through your program
29 for our Federally qualified subsistence users?

30

31 MS. DEBENHAM: So the funding that the
32 Bureau of Indian Affairs has for fisheries is for land
33 owned by Native allotments or lands held in trust that
34 are owned by tribes or tribal organizations. There's
35 also funding for tribes that already own and have
36 constructed their own fish hatchery and that's purely
37 for maintenance. If a tribe has any of those buildings
38 or land in their area, they can apply annually for
39 grant funding for different projects.

40

41 MR. GRAY: So your funding has to be
42 applied for by tribes. I'm the chairman of the Council
43 Native Corporation. We've got 80,000 acres of land.
44 Can we have a memorandum of agreement with our tribe.
45 Native Village of Council does not have land. Can we
46 work together to get some of this funding or can we
47 extend an olive branch to some agency, the State of
48 Alaska or whoever, where they would do the footwork and
49 we would be the link to the money?

50

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1 I'm trying to figure a way of using
2 your program to do studies. You know, this migration
3 study that Louis talked about. Something to do studies
4 using BIA fishery monies.

5
6 MS. DEBENHAM: Well, I can't speak for
7 the State of Alaska but there have been similar
8 requests in the past from Alaska Native tribes with a
9 memorandum of understanding and agreement with their
10 local or regional corporation, but from my
11 understanding those requests for funding haven't been
12 granted. However, that doesn't mean your Federally
13 recognized tribe can't contact the Bureau of Indian
14 Affairs and engage in that conversation to see if there
15 might be something that could be worked out.

16
17 However, a lot of the funding for the
18 Bureau of Indian Affairs is directly tied back to what
19 Congress had intended for those funds and then also it
20 goes back to a lot of the Federal Native American laws.

21
22 MR. GRAY: Is there a way of getting
23 you at the table with the Feds when they're talking
24 about a memorandum of agreement or understanding to
25 create a project on lands that would involve let's say
26 State lands and hardly any Federal lands?

27
28 Let me give you an example. Nome
29 Eskimo sits right here in the middle of State lands.
30 If they agree to go use you, could we get you involved
31 with some kind of a memorandum of understanding to do
32 some projects here in this region working in
33 conjunction with let's say the Feds or the State or
34 whoever is willing to come to the table?

35
36 MS. DEBENHAM: I think for your
37 intended purposes the best thing to do is work with
38 your local Federally recognized tribe and contact our
39 current regional director. If you want to include me
40 in the email or the letter and then I could also carry
41 a message to the Bureau regional director.

42
43 I think it would be good to have a
44 conversation there because I think what you're
45 proposing there would be a lot of complications to it
46 and it would probably take a lot of conversations to
47 get an answer or even a somewhat clear answer.
48 But other tribes have proposed something similar before
49 and they haven't been successful in getting funding,

50

1 but that doesn't mean that -- there could be something
2 that could be worked out, but I can't give a clearer
3 answer on that besides you should probably contact and
4 talk to the regional director and then we can get a
5 conversation started that way.

6
7 MR. GRAY: Okay. Let me offer this.
8 Can I get you to write a letter to this board laying
9 out where we should go -- you know, it's not only Tom
10 Gray that's after this. It should be every person at
11 the table here. And they should be able to take that
12 letter and run with it. Go back to their communities,
13 whatever, and seek whatever you suggest, the process
14 that you suggest.

15
16 I'm going to leave here and, yep, I
17 remember Rosalie, she always comes to reindeer
18 meetings, but I really didn't understand what she
19 talked about and then I have a hard time going to Nome
20 Eskimo and trying to talk to them about it. So if you
21 could lay this out a little bit in a letter form and
22 send it to the Board and they'll get it to us, I think
23 that would be the best process for us to go to our
24 tribes and here's a letter from BIA and here's the
25 process, are you interested or are you not.

26
27
28 MS. DEBENHAM: Well, the only letters
29 in the Bureau of Indian Affairs that currently can be
30 sent can be only sent from the acting regional
31 director. So I couldn't personally draft one.

32
33 MR. GRAY: Can you ask him to draft
34 one?

35
36 MS. DEBENHAM: I can talk to him about
37 your request for sure.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Ronald.

40
41 MR. KIRK: Earlier you stated that you
42 have funding. Is there any funding for tribes like --
43 I come from Stebbins. We have a tribe party down there
44 with reindeer herd. We're trying to set up a slaughter
45 facility plant and I'm wondering if there's any funding
46 out there that we can apply for to help us get this
47 facility plant up and running because we're stuck on
48 funding and trying to build a slaughterhouse for
49 reindeer down there.

50

1 MS. DEBENHAM: The funding that I am
2 aware of for constructing slaughterhouses is all from
3 the USDA. However, as the Bureau of Indian Affairs
4 provides technical assistance to Federally recognized
5 tribes we can assist in helping a Federally recognized
6 tribe pursue that funding or try to locate it and
7 figure out what the criteria are and things like that
8 so we can provide assistance with that in seeking out
9 the funding.

10
11 MR. KIRK: Can you write a letter to
12 our tribe letting us know about this funding that's
13 available to the Stebbins Community Association. That
14 will also include St. Michael IRA. Ted Katcheak is part
15 of the tribe as a private owner. Can you draft up a
16 letter and send it out to our area so we can seek these
17 fundings?

18
19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20
21 MS. DEBENHAM: Thank you. Do they have
22 email?

23
24 MR. KIRK: Our tribal coordinator has
25 an email through Kawerak.

26
27 MS. DEBENHAM: Okay. I can do that.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Rosalie and
30 Kirk, maybe I'm wrong, but through climate change and
31 through BIA each tribal organization is eligible up to
32 \$250,000 and Shishmaref did apply. So it takes money
33 away from that \$250,000, which is allotted for each
34 tribe that they can apply for. Could that be tied in
35 with what Tom is requesting if it's climate change
36 related or adaptation?

37
38 MS. DEBENHAM: For the past two years
39 there has been an RFP out for Federally recognized
40 tribes to apply for climate change funding or to
41 address any activity that would help the tribe adapt to
42 current climate change conditions.

43
44 However, this last year with the new
45 administration the funding for that was put on hold and
46 the RFP was not put out for it. Currently we're hoping
47 and trying to get those funds released so we can have
48 requests for proposals for climate change. But those
49 funds have also been renamed tribal resilience funding.

50

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1 So we're hoping that we'll be able to put out a similar
2 RFP for that. There are a whole list of criteria that
3 are applied to that funding, but to answer your
4 question that may be a possibility.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you.

7
8 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Louis.

11
12 MR. GREEN: I have a few questions for
13 Rosalie. Through the Chair. Rosalie, I was curious
14 about the Seward Peninsula numbers of deer currently.
15 And then I had a question of what have you discussed
16 about predation issues. And then do you understand
17 what Tommy and everybody has been talking about these
18 funds? Did you say that the tribes -- do you remember
19 Adam with the village corporation say request funding
20 and not receive funding?

21
22 I'll hold there for a minute and let
23 you answer. The first one was about the numbers on the
24 Seward Peninsula, current numbers of deer or herds, how
25 big is it now, and then predation issues as a general
26 question.

27
28 MS. DEBENHAM: Yes, thank you. Through
29 the Chair. The numbers we do have self-reported
30 estimates of the number of reindeer on the Seward
31 Peninsula. However, since these are privately owned
32 herds I do not at the moment have permission to reveal
33 those numbers. I'm hoping to maybe later in the year
34 after meeting with the different reindeer herders,
35 however I don't have that permission right now.

36
37 But I will say the numbers are better
38 than we had hoped. Across the state we have self-
39 reported numbers for how many reindeer there are in the
40 state of Alaska that are currently managed. The
41 numbers are between 30-35,000 at this point, but, as I
42 said, these are self-reported numbers so I am unsure of
43 the reliability of them.

44
45 And then as far as predation goes,
46 predation is a huge problem for the survival of the
47 reindeer herds especially on the Seward Peninsula. Here
48 we have herders reporting up to 80 percent mortality on
49 their calves primarily due to predation in the early
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1 spring.

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As far as funding goes, our funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, at least in my department, are all for Federally recognized tribes and a lot of the extra funding, which isn't a whole lot, is tied to specific purposes that are fairly clearly laid out in the green pages that Congress passed.

However, I always encourage any Federally recognized tribe representative that I talk to to any project that they want to do to send in at the very least to send us a quick proposal on it so we can keep an eye out for funding if not just for funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs but maybe from other sources as well. And then it also gives us an idea of what the current needs are of the tribes.

MR. GREEN: Thank you. So you say that it's private herds, which I understand and there's numbers there that you can't release, but these herders have access to Federal funds that all us tax payers pay, but we don't have any right to that info. I kind of find that kind of disturbing, so I'll move on.

The predation, you mentioned 80 percent mortality on the calves, which is a huge problem. We all realize this. So I wanted to hear what BIA had knowledge of.

And then when I asked about these funds for, like Tommy mentioned, fisheries studies, tribes don't own land, but village corporations and regional corporations do. Is it necessary for a village corporation or a regional corporation to lease the land to the tribe so that any of these activities could potentially take place?

MS. DEBENHAM: Okay. Well, that question is getting beyond my realm of expertise, however I do think it's a good question and I could take it back with me and potentially somebody could get back to you about that.

MR. GREEN: Okay. I'd appreciate that. Our village corporation has a facility on its land and I want to know if there's potential that a local tribe -- the potential of them being able to get a grant should they be able to have jurisdiction over the land

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1 for a period of time as far as a lease or something.
2 Anyway, just a question and I just was hoping I'd get
3 an answer. I suppose you'll bring that back and maybe
4 we will get an answer in the future.

5
6 I appreciate your time.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 MS. DEBENHAM: Thank you for the
11 questions.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Any other
14 comments from the Council.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: I might just
19 have one quick question. You know, you get reindeer
20 meat from the stores in bags. Just one simple
21 question, where does that meat come from?

22
23 MS. DEBENHAM: You know, I'm not sure.
24 However, all of the Alaska Native reindeer herders are
25 allowed to sell their own animals without any
26 interference from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, that's
27 for sure, as long as their animals are dead. So they
28 can slaughter according to State regulations or USDA
29 regulations and then sell those commercially.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Okay. Thank
32 you. Do we have any questions or comments from the
33 public.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Any other
38 final comments from the Council.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Hearing none.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MS. DEBENHAM: Thank you for your time
47 and I'll be around for most of the rest of the day, so
48 if you have any other questions please feel free to
49 ask.

50

1 Thank you again.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, thank
4 you. Moving on the agenda. Northern Caribou Working
5 Group approval and representative selection.

6

7 I'll give the floor to Carl.

8

9 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 Members of the Council. I'm Carl Johnson from OSM for
11 those on the phone. As I mentioned briefly when we
12 were talking about putting this on the agenda, this
13 last winter there was a teleconference call with the
14 Chairs from the four regions that cover the range of
15 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd; North Slope, Northwest
16 Arctic, Seward Peninsula and Western Interior.

17

18 One of the things that came out of that
19 discussion was a desire to have more coordination just
20 among the Regional Advisory Councils on how they can
21 address caribou issues across the range of the herd
22 within the Council's role in Federal subsistence
23 management. Our of that discussion came a desire to
24 form a working group with members from each of the four
25 Councils. Originally it was focused principally on the
26 Western Arctic Caribou Herd because that is the herd
27 that covers the range of all four regions. Further
28 discussion suggested including discussion and
29 management approaches on the Central Arctic and
30 Teshekpuk Herd because again those herds cover similar
31 areas for some of the regions.

32

33 So the goal would be to have a working
34 group where members from the Councils could talk about
35 issues and bring up specific regional concerns much
36 like what we were discussing yesterday when we talked
37 about wildlife proposals and seeing how some things
38 weren't appropriate for Unit 22 or there were concerns
39 for other regions. So that in the future the Councils
40 addressed either regulatory proposals that came from
41 the outside or wanted to generate their own proposal,
42 there might be more coordination and consistency among
43 the Councils where it was needed.

44

45 Now this would not at all replace,
46 alter, modify or even interact with the existing
47 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. That is a
48 separate group with a completely different mission.
49 This would just be to help the Councils have a way of

50

1 talking to each other more effectively because you
2 really can't do that now. So this working group would
3 give you a chance to interact with each other.

4
5 So far the North Slope and the Western
6 Interior Councils have voted to be a part of this
7 Northern Caribou Working Group, to submit membership.
8 The Northwest Arctic Council has already spoken in
9 favor of this and is taking formal action at its
10 meeting today. So the question here before the Council
11 is do you want to participate in this working group
12 and, if so, who would represent you on this working
13 group.

14
15 Again, the meetings would be conducted
16 via teleconference because we don't have funding for
17 in-person meetings, but you would have at your disposal
18 all the staff support you normally would have; council
19 coordinators, biologists, anthropologists to help
20 provide you information and bring information to the
21 Councils through this working group.

22
23 So this is an action item because it
24 takes a formal vote from the Council on participating
25 in the working group and then designating its
26 representatives. I'm happy to answer any questions the
27 Council may have. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you.

30
31 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Louis.

34
35 MR. GREEN: For purposes of discussion,
36 could we just make the motion to adopt and then move
37 into the discussion process. I would make that motion.

38
39 MR. GRAY: Second.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Discussion.

42
43 MR. GRAY: I have a question.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Tom.

46
47 MR. GRAY: So this group is formed.
48 It's going to address Federal lands, Federal
49 regulations. Is the intent of this group to report
50

1 directly to the Board or is it to come back these
2 boards and that information gets to the big Board
3 eventually or is this group directly responsible to the
4 big Board?

5
6 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. Thank
7 you. That's an excellent question, Tom. I apologize I
8 did not make that clear. The working group reports back
9 to the Councils. So a logical course of action would
10 say going into the next wildlife cycle. The working
11 group has some meetings over the winter or before then
12 and they might come up with a coordinated proposal for
13 example. That proposal then goes back to the Regional
14 Advisory Councils.

15
16 The members of the working group make a
17 report on the record to the Council and then the
18 Councils have an opportunity to discuss that issue and
19 if it's a proposal, vote to submit it, or it might be
20 something else. But, yes, they have their own
21 discussions and then they report back to the Councils
22 and then the Councils make their recommendations
23 because all of your actions have to be at a public
24 meeting on the record and then it's only your
25 recommendations to get that deference that the Federal
26 Subsistence Board will provide.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Karen.

29
30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. This is
31 Karen Deatherage. To further clarify that because this
32 is not a Federally recognized committee, no decisions
33 can be made by this working group on behalf of the
34 Council. So it would clearly just be recommendations
35 from the working group to the various Councils.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: So then it
40 would be like we've got this Wildlife Proposal 18-32.
41 Through the working group we can discuss the proposal
42 and then bring it back to the Council the working
43 group recommendation, which would make it a lot easier
44 for the Council to vote on. We would have an
45 understanding from the other groups on the proposals if
46 I'm correct.

47
48 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair, exactly.
49 You are correct. That's a perfect example. One of the
50

1 discussions that might come out of the working group
2 would be having different dates for Unit 22 to address
3 those issues that the Council discussed on the record,
4 but you'd still have one unified proposal.

5
6 You would have the benefit of starting
7 out with the understanding of the Council members who
8 participated in that discussion. The Council needs to
9 have its own discussion, its own consideration and it
10 may not necessarily end up adopting the proposal, but
11 it's still a starting point for coordination among the
12 Councils.

13
14 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair. Louis.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Louis.

17
18 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
19 is something I suggested and I talked to Northwest and
20 Arctic Slope at different meetings and saying we needed
21 to have at least a tri-member meeting because we're all
22 users of the same caribou resource. I see Western
23 Interior is in favor. I think them included is a good
24 idea.

25
26 I felt we needed to be talking at the
27 table together. We all have the same mission as far as
28 subsistence, providing subsistence to our people. It
29 would be better if we were at the table to hammer
30 things out and when these proposals come up we would
31 already have that nailed down to where we work
32 together. So I'm really in favor of this motion.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Any other
37 comments, concerns from the Council.

38
39 MR. GRAY: I have one. I'm a little
40 bit worried. To make things work it takes staff and on
41 and on, but any costs associated with this -- I mean
42 you can't have a teleconference unless you have
43 somebody pay that bill. Those costs are going to be
44 absorbed by OSM and what I understand is staff is going
45 to be made available to mail out stuff so people have
46 it in their hands to research and so on and so forth.
47 Is that true?

48
49 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. So we
50

1 pay for the teleconference every month regardless of
2 whether we use it. So it would be good to use it while
3 we're paying for it. As for the staff, one of the
4 things the staff does in between Council meetings is
5 gather information that's going to be useful to the
6 Councils.

7
8 I know the Council coordinators are
9 often quite busy communicating with State and Federal
10 agencies, tribes and other groups to get information to
11 the Councils. So this is kind of part of -- and they
12 attend resource meetings with other agency. Four of
13 the coordinators attend the Western Arctic Caribou
14 Working Group. So these are the things that we do.
15 It's just a matter of adding a more focused
16 coordination of their existing efforts to support the
17 Councils.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Roy.

20
21 MR. ASHENFELTER: Roy Ashenfelter with
22 Kawerak. I'm just trying to figure out some logistics
23 here. I'll give you an example. I participated in
24 Western Arctic Caribou Herd for many years. We have
25 Unit 23 people there. Of course people from North
26 Slope. One of the members from the Nana Region got
27 dissatisfied with the working group and submitted their
28 own proposal and we are where we are because the
29 Federal Subsistence Board supported Nana's
30 recommendation to have non-Federally qualified hunters
31 not able to hunt even though there's no biological
32 reason for their efforts to do that.

33
34 They ignored the information brought by
35 the staff, they ignored the information brought by the
36 State on the biological intent. It was said in their
37 report the reason they want non-Federally qualified
38 hunters not to hunt is because they want to save
39 animals and the data didn't support that.

40
41 Here you've got another layer coming in
42 and the potential for disagreement is out there.
43 You've got people from North Slope, Nana Region, people
44 from our region forming another organization. You're
45 going to have one rep out of you guys and ladies if
46 there's going to be a lady RAC person someday. That
47 may or may not get to you in time to address the
48 disagreement.

49
50

1 The Western Arctic Caribou Working
2 Group is intended to have all agencies, all State, all
3 tribal members, even has members from outside our
4 region. It has an AC member from Anchorage, Fairbanks.
5 It has transporters, guides. All these different
6 individuals attend that meeting with the intent to have
7 as much voice as possible, as much information as
8 possible as to how to manage this herd so that everyone
9 has a voice.

10
11 To add another layer because you're
12 thinking you might communicate better, think about what
13 is happening now. As far as the Teshekpuk Herd, that's
14 up in North Slope. That's their backyard. What are
15 you guys going to do to help them. They need to come
16 up with their own plan for whatever issues they have in
17 the Teshekpuk Herd.

18
19 There is the Porcupine east of
20 Teshekpuk. What are you guys going to do to address
21 their issues? You're really not going to be of any
22 help, but maybe a yes or a no because that's what they
23 want.

24
25 So think a little bit about the
26 consequences of some of the things I brought up. I'm
27 not trying to be negative. I'm just pointing out that
28 whenever you form another group it sounds real good on
29 paper. When you start addressing disagreements, you
30 might want to think about where this is going to come
31 from, how it's going to work out.

32
33 Even though they say they're not going
34 to be regulatory, what the hell are they meeting for
35 then when they can go to the Buskin Arctic Caribou Herd
36 Working Group and bring their issues there, concerns
37 there and have all the people there that would learn
38 and hear about what's going on.

39
40 Anyway, I know I threw a monkeywrench
41 in this thing, but I see something already happening
42 that was intended to solve and make things more
43 transparent, but if someone was dissatisfied with
44 what's going on, they went on their own. So you've got
45 another group forming here that really doesn't do any
46 -- their intent is not to do anything, but I guarantee
47 if they've got somebody there that has an axe to grind,
48 they could submit something.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you,
2 Roy.

3
4 Yes, Carl.

5
6 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
7 just want to clarify a couple points. So this group
8 would not address Porcupine Caribou Herd. That is not
9 a current concern for any of the Councils. Also this
10 group is not meant to replace or supplant the Western
11 Arctic Caribou Working Group, which has a completely
12 different purpose. This group would only form some way
13 of coordinating recommendations for specifically just
14 for Federal subsistence management.

15
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you.
19 The way I understand it is mainly for the Western
20 Arctic Caribou Herd, the same resources we share with
21 our neighboring counterparts.

22
23 Yes, Roy.

24
25 MR. ASHENFELTER: So one suggestion.
26 If you're going to do this, maybe do a trial basis and
27 see if it actually works. That way you can step out.
28 The Federal Subsistence Board staff are members of the
29 working group already. Why form another one. I don't
30 understand that. So at least I would offer that if
31 you're going to pass the proposal, at least do a trial
32 basis and see if it works so you're not stuck with it
33 because you support it.

34
35 Anyway, I'm just throwing out ideas.
36 The Federal government here say they're not going to
37 supplant that. Great. Then just continue working with
38 the working group that currently exists. Have those
39 other organizations that aren't part of the working
40 group attend.

41
42 We have North Slope Borough with the
43 Teshekpuk Herd membership on the working group. So I
44 don't know what their intent is or what their plan is.
45 They want to be more coordinated. Somehow not being
46 coordinated with the working group doesn't exist. So
47 at least do a trial situation and see if it benefits
48 you. If it doesn't, then you just step out from it.

49
50

1 You can hear me already that forming
2 another group may not necessarily end up solving other
3 problems that currently exist with the management of
4 this herd.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes.

7
8 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9 That's a good point. The time duration is as long as
10 this Council wants it to exist. The example I provided
11 earlier regarding the tri-RAC committee for the Yukon,
12 once they formed their customary trade proposal that
13 was it. That was the purpose of their meeting. So the
14 duration can be as long as the Council wants.

15
16 I know Karen had something to respond
17 as well.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Karen.

20
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 We have a working group for the Fisheries Resource
23 Monitoring Program in the Kodiak and Bristol Bay Region
24 because the left didn't know what the right was doing
25 and it caused conflict. So by having them meet
26 periodically on the phone to discuss proposals, it
27 really helped to gain a better understanding. Once the
28 cycle is over for FRMP there's no need for them to
29 meet.

30
31 So this isn't going to be set up so you
32 have a meeting every month. This is a working group
33 that will probably meet on an as-needed basis based on
34 proposals or special actions or needs that come up
35 through the management of these herd. So it's not
36 something that will be formally recognized and set up.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Tom.

41
42 MR. GRAY: When this first came out, my
43 big concern was where is this going to report to. If
44 you think about the process, OSM's obligation is to
45 this board and getting information to this board. It's
46 fine to have the board look at the same stuff we get
47 and tears it apart and comes back with an opinion. But
48 that's also OSM's job is to come back with opinion,
49 tear this apart, look at it.

50

1 It's Fish and Game's job. I appreciate
2 Fish and Game being here, the bear and moose guys. I
3 appreciate you guys sitting through this whole process.
4 I understand you probably have a report to give, but
5 thank you for sitting through this. The Park also.
6 You guys have been sitting here waiting for a long
7 time. Maybe next year I'll learn to shut up a little
8 bit so you can get your reports out.

9
10 But when you really stop and think
11 about it, it's OSM's job to inform us on issues that
12 are critical issues. To be real frank about it, some
13 of these proposals that are going to be looked at in
14 the future are from private people and those private
15 people aren't going to be satisfied with our actions
16 and they're going to pursue their own agendas.

17
18 So we're creating a layer, I guess, of
19 spinning wheels. I don't want to see OSM becoming
20 dependent on these other guys to do your job if that
21 makes sense. Especially I don't want this group to
22 have any power. Their power needs to analyze and
23 report.

24
25 I've seen -- you know, Roy talks about
26 people and their agenda. I've seen that happen at
27 meetings and it went like wildfire, so think about what
28 we're doing here.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Carl.

31
32 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 Through the Chair. I want to respond to a couple of
34 your concerns, Tom. First of all, this working group
35 will not have any power as a matter of law. The law
36 that governs this Council's committee meetings is
37 called the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Between
38 that and Section 805 of ANILCA the only group that can
39 make recommendations to the Board is this Council. The
40 only way any work by this working group can be done is
41 through the Council.

42
43 For example my hypothetical. Let's say
44 we want to have this working group meet a couple time
45 in advance of the next wildlife committee meeting,
46 wildlife regulatory cycle. Instead of having seven or
47 eight different caribou proposals dealing with the
48 Western Arctic Caribou Herd from the four different
49 Councils, this working group comes up with just two
50

1 recommendations.

2

3

4 Now those recommendations are going to
5 be from the working group. It's not going to be OSM
6 Staff telling them what they should recommend. Then
7 the working group votes and says, okay, we're going to
8 take these two proposals back to our Councils. At that
9 point in time OSM Staff are just there to give
10 information, what's going on with the population,
11 what's the harvest data been like, what are people
12 seeing, what are people hearing. Those proposals are
13 generated by the members of the working group.

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Now, like with any other proposals, if
the Council adopts and says yes, we'd like to submit
those proposals, then OSM Staff will analyze them like
they always do and to give you a recommendation. So
the proposals are the idea of the working group and
then the Councils that might adopt them. Those ideas
come from you, but the recommendations like you said
are just the Staff analyses that give a recommendation
just based on what the harvest information and
population is.

The roles would be similar to what they
are already that you're used to about OSM does and what
the role of the Council is. This working group would
just provide a basis for a coordination to hopefully
deal with some of these regional issues that we
discussed yesterday on these wildlife proposals.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. GRAY: So I have a question. The
regional committee meets, they analyze half a dozen
proposals, they decide to support two proposals throw
out the rest of them. The other proposals are still
coming to this board and we're still getting your
opinion on them. You guys have analyzed them. So this
new board hasn't talked about them.

Now what I just heard and maybe you'll
be able to answer it is the two proposals that they do
support is going to come back to the board and then
you're going to go back and analyze them. Is that what
I heard? And once you analyze them you'll be bringing
them back to the board again. Well, we've got six
months delay there if I heard what I heard. There's
six month delay on the two proposals and yet we've got

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1 three in front of us that normally would have been
2 looked at. So is there going to be a problem with
3 delay in process and yada yada?

4
5 MR. JOHNSON: So to back it up again to
6 my hypothetical. The working group creates two
7 proposals to take back to their four Councils. It's up
8 to those Councils at your winter meeting, the start of
9 the proposal cycle where you all get together and say,
10 yeah, are we going to submit any wildlife proposals
11 this year.

12
13 On your agenda will already be two
14 proposals that the working group has come up with. You
15 as a Council will still discuss and have a good,
16 vigorous debate on the record as to whether or not you
17 agree with those proposals that the working group
18 identified. You might, you might not, but you still
19 would vote to formally submit those as proposals
20 because they do not become regulatory proposals until
21 the Councils vote on them and submit them as proposals.

22
23 Yes, then there would be the normal
24 delay, six months or so, between now and then, between
25 when those proposals are submitted and the fall meeting
26 cycle when you get the full analysis back from the
27 staff biologist or anthropologist from OSM who presents
28 the analysis.

29
30 It's possible also that the working
31 group might meet over the summer to talk about whatever
32 proposals were actually submitted, but the staff
33 analysis likely would not be completed. It would be
34 more just for the council members themselves to talk
35 about the issues raised in the proposals.

36
37 I hope that answered that.

38
39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40
41 MR. GRAY: What I didn't understand and
42 what I was kind of digging for is the ability for this
43 Council to create its own proposal and submit it to the
44 Councils for further review. I thought we were looking
45 at other proposals that other people had put in. What
46 you're saying is they will have the ability to create
47 their own proposal and submit it to the Council.

48
49 MR. JOHNSON: That is correct. That

50

1 would just be one additional thing. The working group
2 could recommend a proposal. It's up to the Council
3 whether or not the Council wants to submit it. The
4 Councils can still submit their own proposals in
5 addition to that. There might be unique issues just
6 for your region that you want to address that are not
7 part of this broader working group's mission. So you
8 will still be able to submit your own proposals and the
9 public and everybody else still submits their proposals
10 just like we normally do.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, thank
13 you. I'm using this WP18-32 as an example. Let's say
14 we're having our winter meeting and there is another
15 proposal similar to this and then we have a
16 teleconference with the working group and listen to the
17 recommendations and those are only recommendations. No
18 action is taken. We would have a big idea on the
19 executive summary of the other RACs. So just to give
20 us an idea whether we should oppose or support the
21 proposal.

22
23 MR. JOHNSON: Well, Mr. Chair, the
24 executive summary would only cover the action taken by
25 the Regional Advisory Councils at their meetings. It
26 wouldn't cover the working group proposals or
27 recommendations. I don't know if that's your question.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: No, it's not a
30 question, just a comment. It would just give us a big
31 idea of the direction the other RACs are going to be
32 going, but they haven't made their vote whether they
33 support or oppose, but we've got a general idea what
34 the other RACs want to do.

35
36 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, and that's
37 definitely something we always try to bring anyway as
38 Suzanne was doing yesterday during her presentation.
39 She was giving you updates on what action the other
40 Councils had already taken.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes. And then
43 we would not get any secondhand information. We would
44 get directly from the other RACs. I take it there's
45 going to be three reps from each RAC.

46
47 MR. JOHNSON: That's correct. And back
48 to your 18-32 example, by having membership from all
49 the four regions affected, you would deal with those
50

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1 regional concerns through the working group process
2 rather than at your Council meeting.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, thank you
5 for that. I'm going to support this because it can be
6 utilized as a tool for our Council.

7
8 Any other discussion.

9
10 MR. GRAY: I have a suggestion. I
11 would support it also with a time limit on it. Two to
12 three year time limit, reevaluate how it's worked, if
13 it's worked. I'll tell you I've seen a lot of politics
14 in this state. One thing I'm concerned about is this
15 working group develop something, submit it to the
16 boards and then run to the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
17 and say our working group came up with a solution to
18 this thing and blah, blah, blah, blah.

19
20 And the intent isn't for it to get
21 outside of our Councils, but I know politics in the
22 state and it wouldn't surprise me if something like
23 that happened. So I really think it would be smart for
24 us to put a deadline on our participation at least and
25 then reevaluate how things went, if it's a good working
26 solution. If it's not, we step out of it.

27
28 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. I
29 definitely hear that concern. There's no prohibition.
30 The Council can do whatever it wants about revisiting
31 it. Obviously I think the working group is designed to
32 kind of prepare for the next wildlife cycle and to get
33 updated information and see how those regulatory
34 proposals that have been enacted in the last two years
35 are having an effect on the caribou.

36
37 Also, again, the mandate of this
38 working group and its members is only to discuss and
39 make recommendations to their Councils. The
40 individuals from the Regional Advisory Councils who
41 attend the Western Arctic Caribou Working Group, they
42 all go with their different hats. Some of them are
43 wearing their AC hats when they go. Some people go
44 representing their Council. So we will just work on
45 advising them to make sure they realize that their
46 working group work is related only to benefitting their
47 Councils and no other process.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Okay. Thank
50

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1 you. If there's no further discussion, the original
2 motion was to adopt the Northern Caribou Working Group.

3

4 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman. I've got a
5 question or a comment.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Louis.

8

9 MR. GREEN: So I hear Tommy's concern
10 and then I hear Carl's reaction to that. That means to
11 me that, as Carl states, our Council has our own
12 opinion and if we want to pull out, then we pull out.
13 So that doesn't need to be added to the motion I don't
14 think. That's just what I hear.

15

16 MR. GRAY: Yeah, Louis, that's what I
17 heard too. So I kind of backed down a little bit.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yeah, my
20 thinking is that after we pass the motion and when we
21 do the selection for the three representatives maybe we
22 can discuss the timeframe we should have this working
23 group with our Council.

24

25 If there is no further discussion, I'll
26 proceed to vote on the motion.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: All in favor
31 of the motion signify by saying aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: All those
36 opposed same.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Motion passed
41 to join the Northern Caribou Working Group. So next I
42 think I'll turn this over to Karen or Carl for the
43 three members.

44

45 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 I'm just going to have you identify on the record what
47 three members of your Council will represent you on the
48 council. I don't think you need to set a time limit to
49 it. Your Council coordinator will have on the agenda

50

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1 for any meetings the working group members present a
2 report if they've had a meeting. I suspect it may be a
3 little while before they actually have a meeting.

4
5 MR. GRAY: I'll make a motion that the
6 Chair, the Vice Chair and the Secretary Brandon Ahmasuk
7 sit on this board.

8
9 MR. GREEN: I'll second the motion, Mr.
10 Chair.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Okay.
13 Discussion.

14
15 MR. KIRK: Question.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: The question
18 has been called. All in favor of the motion signify by
19 saying aye.

20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: All those
24 opposed same.

25
26 (No opposing votes)

27
28 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Motion carried
29 to have the Chair, co-Chair and Secretary on the
30 working group.

31
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 One clarification. We will have an election in the
34 winter and there could be a possibility of a change in
35 the officers for the Council, so would you want to just
36 retain these members after that if there is a change or
37 would you want to replace them with the new Council
38 officers.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MR. JOHNSON: And I would recommend
43 just for the continuity of the working group's work you
44 should have the same individuals stay on the working
45 group. Not have it based on the officers. To clarify,
46 do you want the officers or did you want the specific
47 individuals who are currently those officers?

48
49 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, providing
50

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1 those individuals accept the appointment. I'd be happy
2 with that, providing the others do approve also too.

3
4 MR. AHMASUK: I don't have a problem
5 with that.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Louis,
8 comment.

9
10 MR. GREEN: Sorry, Mr. Chair. I got
11 distracted. Somebody asked me a question, so I didn't
12 hear what you stated.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes. On the
15 appointment on the Northern Caribou Working Group,
16 instead of having titles, like they did recommendation
17 for the Chair, co-Chair and Secretary to be on the
18 working group, instead have our names, not the title,
19 be on the working group so that if we have changes in
20 the winter there won't be any turnovers.

21
22 MR. GREEN: Okay. I can go along with
23 that. I think Tommy wanted to see the consistency and
24 Brandon agreed, so I'm fine.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Okay. Thank
27 you, Louis. Yesterday we tabled the Service Award,
28 which was somewhere on our agenda, and we'll take that
29 up now. You have the floor.

30
31 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, thank you. My
32 name is Gene Peltola, Jr. I'm the Assistant Regional
33 Director for the Office of Subsistence management. I
34 have a little bio I'd like to read before we give the
35 award.

36
37 The award is in recognition for years
38 of service to the Federal Subsistence Management
39 Program. The individual is Charles Saccheus. He has
40 been very active in resource management of subsistence
41 in this region for some time serving on the Seward
42 Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the
43 Bering Sea Elders Group, the Alaska Beluga Committee,
44 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. He's
45 also involved in the Northern Norton Sound Fisheries
46 Group focusing on salmon issues. He works effectively
47 with local Federal and State agencies and with other
48 diverse groups.

49
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1 Throughout his life he shared this
2 knowledge and worked hard to protect the fish and
3 wildlife resource of his and your region. It is my
4 pleasure to present this award recognizing five years
5 of service to this Council.

6
7 (Applause)

8
9 MR. GREEN: Congratulations, Charles.
10 This is Louis.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK:
13 Congratulations there, Charlie. You've served well for
14 your people.

15
16 I think we'll take a lunch break.

17
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: How long do you want
19 that to be?

20
21 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Let's take an
22 hour or so.

23
24 (Off record)

25
26 (On record)

27
28 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Okay. It
29 looks like everybody has had their lunch and ready to
30 meet again. Call this meeting back to order. Next on
31 the agenda we have agency reports. First will be the
32 tribal government reports.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Do we have
37 anybody on the phone, tribal government.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Hearing none.
42 We'll move down to -- I believe we already had the BIA.
43 Next is National Park Service, Bering Land Bridge
44 National Preserve.

45
46 MR. ADKISSON: Good afternoon, Mr.
47 Chair. Council Members. Ken Adkisson with the Park
48 Service in Nome. I'd like to update you on some things
49 that are going on in the Park and I think probably one
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1 of the best people to do that is our superintendent
2 Jeanette Koelsch, who I think most of your know.
3

4 I've been doing this for a good many
5 years and, believe me, it's a real pleasure to work for
6 a superintendent that values subsistence as much as
7 Jeanette does and recognize the important work that the
8 groups like the Council do and believes in the ANILCA
9 protections for subsistence.
10

11 We've talked a little bit about the
12 organizational structure of the Park and things before,
13 but back about 2000 Bering Land Bridge, which was an
14 independent Park unit with its own superintendent and
15 management, was merged with the three Park units
16 centered around Kotzebue, now referred to as Western
17 Arctic National Parklands. That happened about 2000.
18

19 At that time we basically lost -- the
20 top management shifted to Kotzebue rather than Nome.
21 The budgets were integrated and we wound up in the
22 interim, until recently, kind of basically a district
23 out of Kotzebue. Recently we've started a process to
24 reverse that and separate Bering Land Bridge back to an
25 independent Park unit, but in the process of doing that
26 we're beginning to have to rebuild our staff, rebuild
27 our budget and rebuild our program.
28

29 So it's going to be hard getting back
30 to where we were before 2000, but anyway I think we're
31 doing a reasonably good job at trying to do that and
32 everything. I think it would be worth hearing from
33 Jeanette on how she sort of sees the big picture and
34 some of the important things we want to do, including
35 in the area of subsistence.
36

37 I'll turn it over to Jeanette.
38

39 MS. KOELSCH: Jeanette Koelsch,
40 National Park Service. Ken is too kind to me. It's a
41 great pleasure working for Ken also, who has been with
42 the Park since 1985.
43

44 So as Ken mentioned we did split from
45 Kotzebue. We still share a budget with them although
46 we have our own allotment of funds now. We're still
47 working on a final split, but it will take an
48 organizational code from Congress to allow us to fully
49 split. We will still share some positions with
50

1 Kotzebue, but through agreement and not because we're
2 told we have to. So that will be really nice. It will
3 be more about the needs of the Park and the region.

4
5 Recently the Park went through a
6 resource stewardship strategy in which we identified a
7 large number of projects and also a document called a --
8 it was a needs assessment basically.

9
10 MR. ADKISSON: State of the Parks.

11
12 MS. KOELSCH: State of the Parks that
13 also addressed all these areas for which the Park
14 needed to improve. Through those two documents we
15 looked at the hiring of Park staff and we decided to
16 hire an anthropologist first off to work with Ken
17 because the cultural indigenous knowledge and
18 subsistence are of course very important to the region
19 as well to the Park.

20
21 The next position that we're looking to
22 hire is a biologist and that announcement is our right
23 now. So we're hoping to get a biologist. Ken's
24 position is moving from the Western Arctic Subsistence
25 Program Manager to an Integrated Resource Manager for
26 just Bering Land Bridge. So he will no longer be also
27 doing subsistence for the three Parks out of Kotzebue.

28
29
30 That duty will fall on Hannah Atkinson,
31 who is from Kotzebue and is their anthropologist there
32 in Kotzebue. In Kotzebue they also recently hired a
33 new superintendent, who is their first superintendent
34 from Kotzebue. Her name is Maija Lukin and she is from
35 Kotzebue. They're probably going to change too.

36
37 We're still going to work together
38 because our resources are still pretty intermingled,
39 like the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and some cultural
40 resources, but we'll have more autonomy to do things
41 for the people of our region and not have to look at
42 such a large region to serve.

43
44 In the next few years we're going to be
45 looking at a greater emphasis on indigenous knowledge
46 and input of -- local input into projects that we do
47 for research in the Preserve and how do we engage and
48 communicate with the tribe and the community in Park
49 resources and get people's input. Also guidance on the

50

1 things that they would like to see the Park research.

2

3 We're going to have an increased focus
4 on coastal fisheries and summary mammal resources,
5 which are in our control but we're also going to look
6 to partner with agencies such as Fish and Wildlife
7 Service and NOAA and Kawerak, like the Eskimo Walrus
8 Commission and groups like that.

9

10 We're going to work to increase our
11 tribal consultation.....

12

13 (Operator - Notice teleconference will
14 be terminated)

15

16 MS. KOELSCH: The other thing we're
17 going to be working towards is we did a climate change
18 scenario planning exercise, which is similar to what
19 Nome Eskimo recently did with looking at adaptation and
20 what might happen with climate change. We're going to
21 discuss access issues because climate change is going
22 to affect people's access to the Preserve for
23 subsistence and other purposes.

24

25 So we're going to look at what that
26 might be and look at in the future and then talk about
27 access and what might need to be done.

28

29 (Operator - Notice teleconference will
30 be terminated)

31

32 MS. KOELSCH: We're also going to look
33 at how to enhance our partnerships with ADF&G. Right
34 now I feel like we've got a good working relationship.
35 We provide funding to the ADF&G to do wildlife surveys
36 for muskox and moose. In partnership with them we
37 share data and help in analysis, but also we discuss
38 issues about those species. I'd like to do more of
39 that type of work cooperatively with our local ADF&G.

40

41 There's also opportunities for us to do
42 with increased staff more partnerships with other
43 tribes, Alaska Native non-profits, like Kawerak, U.S.
44 Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA and other Federal
45 agencies for which they do have authority over certain
46 species where we don't, but we want to know about the
47 population and other environmental factors affecting
48 species within the Park.

49

50

1 So that's the big changes that we're
2 looking toward. I'm pretty excited to be able to say
3 that we were able to hire Nikki Braem, who used to work
4 for subsistence for ADF&G. She knows a lot of people
5 in the communities and I'm pretty excited to look at
6 other anthropological and also indigenous knowledge
7 projects for which she'd be working on.

8
9 So those are the pretty big changes,
10 but we're pretty excited. At least I am. I hope Ken
11 is too. It will hopefully be an easier job than the
12 whole four parklands and 12 million acres for
13 subsistence for Ken.

14
15 MR. ADKISSON: The only thing I would
16 say about data and wildlife and things that are
17 important right now to this group is that we have been
18 working with ADF&G and help funding things like the
19 muskox and population estimate work and composition
20 work and we'll be trying to work with them on some
21 moose projects and so forth. Until we really get our
22 biologist on board and stuff there's not a lot we can
23 do project-wise, but we hope to expand that.

24
25 We're also working on trying to
26 straighten out a fisheries project that actually was
27 submitted by Maryann Woody of the Park Service in the
28 regional office in Anchorage and went to OSM for
29 funding and that project had some problems and wasn't
30 funded. So we're working with her and others to kind
31 of reshape the project into something more viable.
32 Again, focusing on the waters within the Bering Land
33 Bridge National Preserve primarily.

34
35 ADF&G will probably present the results
36 of the muskox and moose work, so no use taking time to
37 repeat all the data and stuff. If you have any
38 questions, we'll be glad to try to answer them.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Brandon.

41
42 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 You made mention of funding for moose and muskox
44 surveys. Not trying to speak for Mr. Gray, but I'm
45 sure if he were here he'd also be very interested in
46 this as I would be. In the past there were bear
47 surveys that were done for Seward Peninsula. Is there
48 going to be continued funding bear surveys on the
49 Seward Peninsula?

50

1 MR. ADKISSON: Councilman Ahmasuk,
2 through the Chair. Bear research and bear stuff is a
3 pretty interesting topic to get into. They're not the
4 easiest animal to study and often to get really
5 detailed data you have to do things like mark/recapture
6 work, which are very expensive.

7
8 The first answer to your question is,
9 part A, sort of like, yes, more bear surveys will
10 continue. But the way it's currently set up for the
11 Park Service is that's done through what we call our
12 Arctic Network and Inventory and Monitoring Program
13 based in Anchorage. It's kind of like a separate unit
14 of the Park Service. They're set up to do a series of
15 bear surveys, which in our area would run about once
16 every five or six years. So we are looking at more
17 work.

18
19 So that's the first part of the answer
20 to the question. What's going on with bears is a lot
21 more difficult to answer. To be honest and frank with
22 it, I'm not sure what we're investing in bears right
23 now, how helpful it is. I think things will improve as
24 we develop the protocol that we use to guide our work
25 on bears and get the study units more standardized and
26 things.

27
28 Over time that will produce more
29 comparable, direct results. Like right now we're
30 really unable -- on the data we've gotten we've had
31 several bear surveys done in different parts, for
32 example Bering Land Bridge, going back I think around
33 2006 maybe had been one of the first ones. So we've
34 had about three of them.

35
36 What you get at the end of all this
37 there's something like -- the study units aren't really
38 comparable and the methods weren't exactly the same and
39 it would appear that the bear population is comparable
40 to similar habitats in adjacent areas, which doesn't
41 help much for understanding what's going on with bears.

42
43 So I think that's going to improve as
44 we standardize the protocol and the methods by which
45 we're doing it. Again, they're costly and that's going
46 to take time, so I don't expect any immediate results
47 to fall out of the sky, but we're going to keep at it.

48
49 MS. KOELSCH: This is Jeanette. The
50

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1 other thing that we need to take into consideration is
2 making sure that we partner with ADF&G on that survey
3 work. It would be really easy for me to say that we're
4 only going to do the Park, but it doesn't give us a
5 picture of the Seward Peninsula and animals move. So
6 it would be better to continue collaborative efforts so
7 that we get better data than it would be for us to go
8 and do that type of work on our own.

9
10 So it would really take another
11 collaboration with ADF&G because it's in the hundreds
12 of thousands of dollars when you do a bear survey as
13 compared to 25 or 30 for moose.

14
15 If that makes any sense.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Charles.

18
19 MR. SACCHEUS: Yeah, I think the
20 climate change is not a hoax like our President say.
21 About two or three years ago I was driving my truck
22 Moses Point. We got a road 12 miles out from Elim to
23 Moses Point and I was driving my truck back, me and my
24 wife. We crossed over Baldhead down that road and we
25 were going to hit the bottom. I told my wife, is that
26 a polar bear or a blonde bear. She looked at it and
27 she said it sure looks like a polar bear to me. So I
28 can't believe my eyes because he was a half-breed.

29
30 I find that out later on hearing people
31 calling over the VHF radio. He said there's a bear at
32 that point over there looking at them seals in the
33 water. So we went on top of the cliff and looked at
34 that bear, that half-breed. He'd jump in the water and
35 dive. He stayed under maybe 15 to 20 minutes. He come
36 up biting a seal. The seal would be moving around and
37 he'd bring it up to the ice, go on top and bring it
38 further up and kill it. Go back down and get another
39 seal. He'd get about three or four seals.

40
41 They always open them up and eat their
42 -- he don't eat the meat, he ate the guts. I told them
43 people that surely is a half-breed polar bear because I
44 don't think them brown bears dive in the water and get
45 the fish, you know, but that half-breed he was eating
46 seals. He'd get about four seals right in front of
47 everybody's eyes.

48
49 So I started to think, you know, when
50

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1 Donald Trump said that climax change is a hoax, I never
2 believe him at all. It's happening now. Our weather
3 is changing. I'm almost 80 years old and I know all
4 these years that it's been changing all along.

5
6 So in the future I think that -- and on
7 top of that we always see bowheads, they started to go
8 to Elim, with a whole bunch of beluga in January. I
9 never did see that in my life front of Elim. Those
10 bowheads come in with beluga following them. Those big
11 bowhead whales always break the ice for those beluga.
12 They always come straight up and hit the ice and break
13 it all up, splash around and break it up. Right after
14 that big bowhead whale break all the ice up, them
15 beluga always start coming all around them. They just
16 follow them like that.

17
18 So I start thinking when I hear all the
19 news about climate change I start thinking about what's
20 happening in our village.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MR. ADKISSON: All I would say to that,
25 without trying to be political, Lisa Murkowski said
26 climate change is real at AFN, I think. So there are
27 other people out there who could agree with you.
28 Whatever we call it or whatever happens it's clear that
29 the world around us is changing and that that's going
30 to have impacts down the road on the fish and the
31 wildlife and the resources that you folks depend on and
32 how we try to accommodate those changes or adapt to
33 them I think is going to be the big challenge.

34
35 MR. SACCHEUS: I've been hunting seal
36 all my life in the front of Elim on the ice with a
37 stick and my grandpa tell me if I go out, make sure you
38 take a stick when you walk on ice. There will be seal
39 holes under there. You could go way under the ice and
40 never come back up. He said that happened before.

41
42 So I started believing that climate
43 change isn't a hoax, it's real. It coming up, I don't
44 know, maybe 10 years, 20 years from now.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you,
49 Charles. Do we have another other comments, questions
50

1 from the Council.

2

3 MR. GREEN: This is Louis. I got back
4 online here.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Okay. Louis.

7

8 MR. GREEN: I was just letting you know
9 I got on.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Okay. For the
12 record, Louis is on the phone. Yes, Leland.

13

14 MR. OYOUMICK: I want to ask the man
15 over there do you do surveys on the Unalakleet River
16 also for bears.

17

18 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Oyoumick, not
19 specifically we do surveys because our focus is largely
20 on the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, which is
21 along the northernmost part of the Seward Peninsula and
22 comes down into the central part of the peninsula, but
23 we do cooperatively work with other agencies that may
24 or may not be involved in projects like that. But
25 mostly that would be probably the Alaska Department of
26 Fish and Game or BLM or someone like that that would be
27 working in that area.

28

29 MR. OYOUMICK: The reason I ask is
30 because the locals have stated that they saw 22 bears
31 this fall on our river and I just want to compare and
32 see how close they are to your surveys. That's the
33 only thing I wanted to know.

34

35 MR. ADKISSON: Actually I don't have
36 that data right now and I'd hesitate to make an
37 estimate of whether they were similar in density to
38 what we turned up in our survey or not. I'm not sure
39 that you can always count on just based on the number
40 of bears you see at any one location or period of time
41 really how that reflects to the total bear population.

42

43 Like we said, things are changing,
44 conditions are changing, animals move and change their
45 behavior patterns. It does take survey work in broader
46 survey areas to try to really nail down how many
47 critters you've got in a given area and that takes work
48 and projects and money and there a lot of demand out
49 there for information on a whole range of species.

50

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1 That's all I could say is it's good to keep bringing up
2 things like that and talk to the different agencies and
3 see if you can influence them.

4

5 MR. OYOUMICK: I'm not a bear hunter,
6 but I saw two.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: This is Fred.
9 Maybe not directly related to subsistence or maybe it
10 is, but what is the status of the shelter cabin at
11 Singeak?

12

13 MS. KOELSCH: Jeanette Koelsch. So the
14 shelter cabin, the one that will in the Kupik Lagoon
15 area, that new one that we're building, Kawerak has the
16 funding to build that for their transportation program.
17 We received a Federal land highway grant in which we in
18 turn provided that funding to Kawerak.

19

20 We're working with Sean McNight and
21 he's creating position descriptions for the carpenters
22 they're planning to hire in Shishmaref to create the
23 cabin -- to create the cabin -- to build most of the
24 cabin in Shishmaref and then have the panels
25 helicoptered to the location and some of it
26 snowmobiled.

27

28 Hopefully sometime this winter and into
29 next spring. I have not heard of his complete
30 timeline. I just know that he wants to hire folks in
31 Shishmaref to build the cabin.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you very
34 much. We waited I don't know how many years on that.
35 Thank you.

36

37 MS. KOELSCH: We have to get project
38 funding for a lot of our work. It sounds weird, but we
39 also compete with other Parks for project funding for
40 things like that.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Any other
43 comments from the public or the Council.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Hearing none.
48 Thank you.

49

50

1 MR. ADKISSON: Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Next on the
4 agenda we have BLM.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Okay. It
9 looks like we don't have anybody from BLM. Usually Tom
10 Sparks gets here. So we'll go down to ADF&G.

11

12 MR. DUNKER: While Letty is handing
13 that out I'll just get the ball rolling here. Tony
14 wasn't able to be here this afternoon. He had hoped to
15 give you guys a bit of a staffing update for our
16 regional staff. We've had quite a few additions and
17 changes over the last several years.

18

19 First off, Tony Gorn is currently
20 serving as our regional supervisor. He's moved out of
21 his position as the area biologist and has moved up in
22 the ranks here in Region 5.

23

24 Along with that, Phillip Perry, a long-
25 time biologist down in the Bethel office, he's taking
26 over as our management coordinator. Still based out of
27 the Bethel office there, but handling more of the
28 duties that prior to that were done by Tony and Peter
29 Benday. Most of you guys probably remember him.

30

31 We've also in the last year hired a new
32 regional biologist, Carmen Daggett. She's in the
33 Kotzebue office. She had helped out quite a bit over
34 the last several years as a Board support specialist,
35 helping us fly surveys and getting experience doing all
36 that kind of stuff. She's continuing to serve the
37 region as a wildlife biologist at this point and has
38 been pretty instrumental in helping the folks in
39 Kotzebue and up on the North Slope with outreach
40 associated with the new registration caribou permit.

41

42 Kind of back here in the Nome office
43 regionally we've started to add to kind of a fledgling
44 research staffing, that kind of thing. We recently
45 hired Warren Hanson as a biologist here in the Nome
46 office. He couldn't be here today either, but he's
47 doing a lot of work with moose primarily here in Unit
48 22 and up in Unit 23.

49

50

1 There's a lot more positions associated
2 with that research staff. There's plans to hire a
3 muskox research biologist in the near future as well as
4 another moose/caribou biologist. Where those folks
5 will be stationed is kind of to be determined, but I
6 think I speak for most of Region 5 when I say that
7 we're pretty excited to have those guys on board.

8
9 With more manpower it opens up
10 opportunities to start to answer some of the questions
11 that we have about different populations of animals
12 throughout the region. I think we're all pretty
13 excited to start to look into those questions.

14
15 For survey updates from this past year
16 or so I know we were before you guys talking about work
17 that we recently did down in Unalakleet last year.
18 Along with that, around the same time period, we were
19 working on the Seward Peninsula muskox survey.

20
21 Jeanette mentioned that that's a
22 project that we work cooperatively with both the BLM
23 and National Park Service on. They provided funding
24 for us this year and we were able to complete the
25 project. It still is a large project and requires a
26 lot of coordination and cooperation among State and
27 Federal agencies. Everybody pitched in and I'm really
28 happy with the results ultimately.

29
30 Our estimate of abundance for the
31 entire range of the Seward Peninsula muskox population
32 was 2,353 muskox. When we look at the entire
33 population as a whole, that's relatively stable
34 compared to what we saw in 2015 following the declines
35 that we documented between 2010 and 2012.

36
37 Within what we refer to as kind of the
38 core count area, which is the area in which we
39 historically have had muskox hunting opportunities
40 available, the population estimate from that area, and
41 basically we're looking at a line west of a line
42 between Buckland and Koyuk give or take, in the area
43 that we traditionally have had a muskox hunt. That
44 population is estimated to be 1,864 muskox, which again
45 compared to what we found in 2015 suggest that the
46 population within that area has remained relatively
47 stable.

48
49 Looking at kind of the expanded count
50

1 area, areas that we've added to the survey over the
2 years, primarily in the northern portion of 22A in the
3 Nulato Hills and in portions of 21D on the east side of
4 the divide there. That population has experienced some
5 modest growth, at least remained stable. We estimate
6 that population to be about 473 animals. Again,
7 overall, the general trend throughout the survey area
8 is relative stability, which has been encouraging.

9
10 Our next survey is scheduled for the
11 spring of 2019. That's following with our kind of
12 regularly scheduled planning for that particular
13 survey. We try to do it every other year and will be
14 continuing to do that at least for the foreseeable
15 future here to continue to evaluate and monitor the
16 population as a whole.

17
18 Generally speaking, we continue to see
19 a trend in the distribution of animals similar to what
20 we found in 2015. As many of you probably remember,
21 historically we had a lot of animals that were found in
22 the northern and western portions of the Seward
23 Peninsula. So 22E, 22D, those were areas where we had
24 kind of the bulk of the population residing.

25
26 We saw it in 2015 and we're kind of
27 continuing to see it now and that we see a greater
28 proportion of the population predominantly found in
29 kind of the southern and eastern portions of the range.
30 Not really sure what's driving that sort of
31 distribution, but it's just kind of interesting to note
32 as we're keeping an eye on things and then evaluating
33 any changes through time.

34
35 Along with the Seward Peninsula muskox
36 survey, looking at overall abundance, we also go out
37 after the survey is completed and complete composition
38 surveys throughout the range of the entire Seward
39 Peninsula population. We do that on a subunit basis
40 for the purposes of hunt management.

41
42 This time around this was the fourth
43 year that we'd done this range-wide composition survey.
44 We counted a total of 84 individual muskox groups
45 totaling 1,271. This is roughly 54 percent of the 2017
46 Seward Peninsula muskox population estimate.
47 The bull/cow ratio for the entire range of the
48 population was 36 mature bulls per 100 cows and that's
49 roughly 18 percent of the population that's comprised

50

1 of the mature bulls.

2
3 Similar to what we saw with the overall
4 abundance estimate, this suggests relative stability
5 within the range of the population and for most
6 subunits. We did see some declines in the proportion
7 of mature bulls in some of the areas, but speaking in
8 generalities the bull/cow ratio and the proportion of
9 mature bulls that were seen on the landscape has
10 remained relatively stable compared to what we saw in
11 2015.

12
13 One of the more promising things that
14 we saw in the results of the survey was with respect to
15 the recruitment rate. In 2015, recruitment was range-
16 wide estimated at about 8 percent, which single digits
17 recruitment for muskox and for most any species is not
18 very good. This time around we found 15 percent
19 recruitment, so that's been a promising sign. It kind
20 of follows through with what we're seeing as far as
21 stability within the population.

22
23 Of note as well was just the number of
24 two year old animals that we saw in the population, so
25 at least for the last couple of years, 2015 calving and
26 2016 calving, it seems to be that productivity was
27 pretty good within the population. Again, just some
28 more positive indicators as we move forward.

29
30 I kind of touched on this yesterday in
31 the course of discussions about some of the proposals
32 and whatnot. I'll just touch on it again here. The
33 regional staff were able to complete a Western Arctic
34 Herd photo census this past summer. What's noteworthy
35 about that is that we finally managed to implement some
36 new technology.

37
38 The camera that we had been using for
39 many years was somewhat dated and for years they'd been
40 talking about upgrading to a digital system and the
41 potential benefits that we might be able to gain from
42 that. This was the first year that we were able to put
43 that new tool to use. Having seen some of those
44 photos, the resolution, the contrast, everything seems
45 to be far and above what we'd been working with in
46 years past. So that's just pretty exciting stuff.

47
48 As I mentioned yesterday, we're kind of
49 in the midst of counting those photos and we hope to
50

1 have an estimate to provide to the stakeholders in
2 general and other agencies in time for the December
3 Western Arctic Herd Working Group meeting.

4
5 There's a lot of positive indicators
6 within the population. Just more good news as we go
7 forward. The calf survival, adult female survival, all
8 these seem to be about what you'd expect to see in a
9 stable population.

10
11 Kind of looking ahead here, and I'm
12 going to hand off to Letty here in a second. She's
13 going to go over some of our harvest information from
14 this past year. We've got quite a bit of work coming
15 up here in November. We're going to be completing our
16 Tier II outreach.

17
18 This is something that we do every
19 November in an effort to help folks navigate the Tier
20 II application process to obtain Tier II muskox permits
21 on the Seward Peninsula. So staff members will be
22 traveling to all the communities within the Tier II
23 hunt areas. Basically everything west of Koyuk will be
24 included in that.

25
26 Of note for this year we'll also be
27 traveling to Wales and Shishmaref. We are
28 transitioning to a Tier II hunt administration in Unit
29 22E and that's in response to several years now of
30 harvestable surpluses that fall below the Nested ANS
31 for Unit 22E. Prior to this year that hunt has been
32 administrated as a registration permit. First come
33 first serve, handing out permits in the communities of
34 Wales and Shishmaref.

35
36 This year will be the first year that
37 that hunt will be administered as a Tier II hunt, so
38 we'll be making an effort to get out to those
39 communities and to help folks to navigate the system
40 and get applications turned in in an effort to get some
41 of those Tier II permits for muskox in Unit 22E.

42
43 Other work that we've got coming up in
44 November we're going to be doing some fall composition
45 surveys in Unit 22D. That will be partly in
46 conjunction with some of the new research projects that
47 we've got. Most of those are being spearheaded by
48 Warren Hanson here in the Nome office.

49
50

1 We'll be coordinating with him to
2 provide locations of short yearlings that he's going to
3 capture, weigh, radio collar and release. Those
4 animals then will be recaptured in the spring and we're
5 going to be using that information to look at winter
6 weight change, trying to evaluate both summer and
7 winter nutritional status within the population. It's
8 a three-year project as it stands right now.

9
10 Looking forward to this coming spring
11 we have plans. Again, working in conjunction with the
12 National Park Service to complete moose surveys in Unit
13 22D and Unit 22E. This is kind of part of our
14 regularly scheduled program for survey work and we'll
15 be back at it this spring, early March, counting moose
16 in those areas in order to get a better handle on where
17 the population is currently and the overall status and
18 trajectory of those animals.

19
20 That's all I have. I think it would
21 probably make sense to let Letty give you an update on
22 harvest in the last year or so and then we can open
23 things up for questioning if that works for you guys.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MS. HUGHES: Hello. This is Letty with
28 Fish and Game. I'm a wildlife biologist here. Some of
29 you have already seen this. This handout that I gave
30 you I'll kind of be going species by species for the
31 most part on the harvest reports for this past year.

32
33 The first one is the moose hunt
34 management. Most areas we have a registration hunt, so
35 more like within the Nome system, Unit 22C, going up
36 into 22B, Council, White Mountain, Golovin and out in
37 22D, Kuzitrin, Pilgrim and then out towards the Teller
38 area.

39
40 All those areas we actually did close
41 by emergency order. What that means is that we reached
42 our quota of animals before the season date of
43 September 14th. We also had a nonresident registration
44 hunt up in Unit 22E where there's a quota of 13 bulls
45 for nonresidents and that quota was also reached, so we
46 issued an EO to close that.

47
48 22A out in the Unalakleet River
49 drainage. We have a quota and a registration hunt

50

1 that's cooperative between BLM and the State. So with
2 the survey results from 22A this past spring that quota
3 went up to 34 antlered bulls. The outcome of it was
4 with the Federal hunt that starts September 15th -- or
5 August 15th and then the State hunt would go through
6 until September 20th unless that quota of 34 bulls was
7 met.

8
9 So four moose were reported taken on
10 the Federal permit in the Unalakleet River drainage and
11 then 23 moose were reported as taken on the State RM841
12 permit for a total of 27.

13
14 So what that means is we didn't have to
15 issue an EO this year. I think that's probably the
16 first time not having to do that and that's from
17 extending the Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee
18 had put in a proposal to Alaska Board of Game to
19 request the season to go to the 20th of September.

20
21 There's also a winter hunt to be
22 announced on the books. Since the Unalakleet River
23 drainage area did not meet their quota can expect to
24 have a winter hunt come December for that. It looks
25 like about six or seven animals will be available for
26 that hunt.

27
28 Brown bears. What you're seeing here
29 in Table 2 is just the preliminary for this fall
30 harvest. It's sealing certificates that have come
31 through our office, whether it's been hunters, guides
32 bringing in bears or whether it's been appointed
33 sealers in Unalakleet area, White Mountain, Shishmaref
34 that have sent in their sealing certificates.

35
36 Right now reported harvest is about 39
37 bears. That could be a little bit more. I just haven't
38 received any other sealing certificates from outside
39 appointed sealers yet. For that fall report of harvest
40 that's about average. I mean 45, 50 is normally what
41 we take in the fall. I mean we're right along there.
42 I think once I get more sealing certificates from our
43 Unalakleet area, White Mountain and even from 22E that
44 will be right up there with 45, 50 bears potentially
45 harvested this fall.

46
47 So a few changes that the Council took
48 action on yesterday. 22C within the Nome area the
49 Alaska Board of Game adopted in 2014 to go from one
50

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1 bear every four regulatory years to one bear every
2 regulatory year. That's been in effect for two years
3 now and the data for that shows that that brown bear
4 harvest in 22C has increased 80 percent.

5
6 So since liberalizing brown bear
7 regulations in 22C from 1997 we saw eight bears on
8 average being taken a year, then 16 bears and now we're
9 seeing an average of 29 bears being taken in Unit 22C.
10 That's just with two years of data. The data also
11 suggests by looking at surrounding areas that are also
12 accessible to hunters, like Council area, Pilgrim River
13 area, that that harvest has not decreased with this new
14 22C regulation.

15
16 Additionally a new 22C regulation that
17 the Alaska Board of Game adopted and will take effect
18 come this spring is right now the brown bear season for
19 22C in the springtime is May 1st to May 31st. For many
20 years there has been proposals put in by local groups
21 and the Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee to
22 have the season open April 1st and go to May 31st. So
23 that finally happened.

24
25 Come this spring 2018 you can hunt
26 bears in 22C starting April 1st. We'll definitely be
27 paying really close attention to see what a harvest
28 does in 22C in relation to what harvest is doing in
29 other areas as well in the spring.

30
31 Another regulation that the Board of
32 Game adopted in January that you guys took action on on
33 the Federal side as well is the bag limit in Unit 22B.
34 Normally the bag limit is one bear every regulatory
35 year, but as of this fall the bag limit is two bears
36 every regulatory year for Alaska residents.

37
38 So what does that mean in terms of
39 harvest and data. Member Ahmasuk asked about this.
40 Right now I know just reported harvest is 12 bears from
41 sealing certificates I have seen being taken out of
42 there. Nothing from there suggesting that I have
43 hunters taking multiple bears right now. Come the
44 spring, potentially into later in the year, I should
45 have a better idea as to who is taking that opportunity
46 to harvest two bears in Unit 22B.

47
48 I know there's definitely interest in a
49 brown bear survey, questions about 22A, so I'll go
50

1 through the rest of this harvest information and then
2 address your questions and concerns about numbers of
3 brown bears out in the area in 22A. I did not forget
4 about that.

5
6 I'm going to touch on the second page
7 on the caribou registration. This was the first year
8 that Unit 22 implemented the new caribou registration
9 permit the Board adopted. It was also supported by the
10 Western Arctic Herd Working Group as well, the RC-800.
11 What that meant was it was a large job for Unit 22
12 staff. We hit up all 13 communities including Nome and
13 working with hunters and the venders so hunters would
14 have a place to go pick up registration permits.

15
16 There was just under 1,000 registration
17 permits that were given out to Unit 22 hunters. The
18 bulk of that are Nome hunters, about 477. However,
19 considering that this is the first year giving out a
20 registration permit, it's actually good. People are
21 wanting to pick up caribou permits, they're wanting to
22 report.

23
24 As of right now, out of the 876 permit
25 holders in Unit 22 we have 690 permits that were
26 reported. So that's actually a really good reporting
27 rate for the first time, but it's been Bill and I
28 calling people, knocking on the doors, sending out
29 letters. This is a new thing, we need to get your
30 harvest report. So there's still a handful of folks,
31 so we expect those reports will increase.

32
33 On the last page is a current muskox
34 hunt management. Once again it's just a preliminary
35 report because the season opened up this fall. There's
36 a quota of 35 bull muskox that are available for
37 harvest. Right now all the areas except for 22E and
38 22A are in Tier II. 22E has the registration muskox
39 hunt at this moment. Like what Bill said that changes
40 to a Tier II. 22A does not have muskox hunting right
41 now.

42
43 So out of the 35 that are available
44 there's been seven bull muskox that have been reported
45 as taken in the system. Most of the bulk of the
46 hunting and the harvest will take place later in the
47 wintertime, closer to the spring when the season gets
48 closer. They like to have them when there's a little
49 bit more qiviut on them as that's highly sought after.

50

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1 The next RAC meeting we'll have more information to
2 give you on what's been taken for the muskox.

3
4 Okay.

5
6 I think we can open it up for
7 questions.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Tom.

10
11 MR. GRAY: These guys just gave a
12 report on this at an AC meeting, so I kind of asked my
13 questions, but I need to ask them here. I'm very
14 concerned about what I saw in five weeks of hunting
15 bear guiding last fall and how many bears I saw. In
16 five weeks of hunting I don't think I saw 10 lone bears
17 in 22B. I actually went into 22C and took a bear out of
18 22C.

19
20 In looking at your report, you had
21 about eight animals in 22C. You went to a bear a year
22 and it went to 16 animals. This year's report is 29
23 animals in 22C, is that correct?

24
25 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair to
26 Member Gray. That's our average annual harvest for
27 these past two years in 22C, 29 bears a year.

28
29 MR. GRAY: So I guess where I'm going
30 with this thing is I think you have a different -- I
31 personally think your bear population structure is
32 different than it was 10 or 15 years ago. I think you
33 have a female cub structure versus a lot of boars out
34 there. Again, I urge you guys to do some kind of a
35 bear survey. I really think, just looking at the
36 numbers in 22C and what's happened in the last couple
37 years the numbers warrant we need to go out and study
38 the bears and make sure we're doing the right thing
39 rather than take the attitude we're going to kill every
40 bear off and make everybody happy and life goes on.

41
42 I used to hate bears. When I was a
43 reindeer herder, I hated bears. Kill every one of
44 them, get rid of them. But, you know, the bears have a
45 place in this world and not everybody is going to say
46 that, but they do.

47
48 Anyway, there's that.

49
50

1 The muskox. You talk about 8 to 15
2 percent increase. Is that a year later increase or is
3 that a tally after fawning?
4

5 MR. DUNKER: So those values that I
6 reported that was the recruitment rate, so that's the
7 number of yearling animals that we observed during the
8 composition surveys, which are typically conducted in
9 late March and early April. So that is pre-calving and
10 that's the number of animals that were born the year
11 prior and survived all the way through the winter and
12 are now being recruited into the population as adults.
13

14 MR. GRAY: Okay. So Tom Gray is very
15 concerned now that we're going to get too many animals
16 and go into a registration hunt that is open for
17 everybody in the state of Alaska and all of a sudden we
18 don't have the market cornered for our people here so
19 to speak through the Tier II program.
20

21 So this eight percent increase in the
22 herd, are you guys thinking about increasing the number
23 of animals to keep everything in check to stay in a
24 Tier II system or are you going to let it just go right
25 out of the Tier II system and go into a registration
26 hunt or something where we're competing with everybody
27 in Alaska? I think our people here need the animals
28 far more than people in Alaska.
29

30 MR. DUNKER: To clarify on a couple
31 things. So the population itself did not increase 15
32 percent. Of the animals that we have on the landscape
33 this past spring when we were looking at them 15
34 percent of those animals were in that short yearling
35 age class. That's not necessarily indicative of like
36 how much the population grew as much as it is how
37 productive the population is and how many of those
38 animals that maybe were born in the spring and now
39 survived one full year and survived that time period
40 when they're most susceptible to mortality.
41

42 The population itself has remained
43 relatively stable as a whole in terms of overall
44 numbers. As we move forward we're continuing to apply
45 some of the more conservative hunt management
46 strategies that we began to implement in 2012 in
47 response to the overall declines in abundance as well
48 as declines in the number of mature bulls that we see
49 on the landscape.
50

1 The harvestable surplus for this coming
2 year 2018-2019 is estimated to be 33 bull muskox. The
3 way that we're calculating harvestable surplus at this
4 time is we are shooting for a harvest that does not
5 exceed 2 percent of the overall population and that
6 does not exceed 10 percent of the total number of
7 mature bulls in a given area.

8
9 For instance, I'll use 22E. The
10 population estimate is 306 muskox. The proportion of
11 mature bulls within that population is 13 percent.
12 When we estimate the number of mature bulls that is in
13 that population, we're looking at anywhere from 30 to
14 50 bull muskox. So we don't want to harvest more than
15 10 percent of that and we don't want that overall
16 harvest for the entire population, including 22E, to
17 exceed 2 percent of the overall population.

18
19 Part of the justification for
20 transitioning to a Tier II system in Unit 22E is
21 because we don't anticipate exceeding the amount
22 necessary for subsistence in that area in the
23 foreseeable future. This is actually now the third
24 consecutive year based on information from two separate
25 surveys that the harvestable surplus has been below the
26 lower end of that Nested ANS for muskox in Unit 22E.

27
28 The reason that we didn't kind of have
29 a knee-jerk response and immediately go into a Tier II
30 situation is that we wanted to make sure that we didn't
31 find ourselves kind of flip-flopping back and forth
32 between these two hunt administration types because
33 they are very different. For the user, we go from
34 handing them out in July one year to applying for them
35 the next year to handing them out in July again the
36 next year. That's something we wanted to avoid.

37
38 So now, looking forward, we don't
39 anticipate for that harvestable surplus to exceed the
40 lower end of the ANS and we feel comfortable beginning
41 to administer that as a Tier II hunt because we don't
42 anticipate not being in a Tier II situation in the near
43 future.

44
45 MR. GRAY: Let me jump in here one last
46 time. Part of why I'm kind of questioning and stuff is
47 I believe the bear population is coming down from what
48 I have seen in the country. I've been bear guiding
49 since the mid '90s, so I feel that I've got a pretty
50

1 good idea what's going on out there.

2

3 The thing that I haven't heard is we've
4 got -- we had 8 percent survival rate two or three
5 years ago and now we have 15 percent. What I'm trying
6 to drive for and make people look at is I believe the
7 bear population come down. You've got your survival
8 rate of muskox coming up and all of a sudden things are
9 going to change dramatically.

10

11 My personal feeling is I think this
12 herd is expanding out of our area and the counts that
13 we're having here aren't taking in animals that may be
14 ending up in Selawik Refuge or beyond somewhere.
15 Anyway, there's going to be a big dramatic change and
16 somehow I'd like to make sure that our people get those
17 permits and it doesn't become what it was like in
18 Shishmaref where they were giving out permits to every
19 local guy in Anchorage. They had 20 permits available
20 or something. The locals didn't get the benefit of
21 this resource.

22

23 Anyway, I guess I look at numbers
24 differently and you've got a 7 percent increase in two
25 or three years and that 7 percent -- you went from 8
26 percent to 15 percent of calves surviving the winter.
27 So you have 7 percent that you didn't have two years
28 ago.

29

30 Something is going on out there.

31

32 Something is happening.

33

34 MR. GREEN: I have a question, Mr.
35 Chair. This is Louis online.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Louis.

38

39 MR. GREEN: This is for the staff
40 there. At what point did we get to Tier I? We were in
41 Tier II, the population reached a certain number. What
42 was the trigger number that went from Tier II to Tier
43 I?

44

45 MR. DUNKER: Through the Chair. All of
46 those terminations as far as the style of hunt
47 administration is based on the ANS for the population.
48 The ANS for Seward Peninsula muskox is 100 to 150 and
49 within that there's a nested ANS for Unit 22E of 10 to

50

1 25. What that means is that if we are below 100, like
2 we are currently, we are below the lower threshold of
3 the ANS and therefore we're required to administer
4 those hunts as Tier II hunts because we're not able to
5 provide for all subsistence uses.

6
7 Tier I in which nonresidents are
8 excluded would occur if the harvestable surplus of the
9 population is between 100 and 150 and then all uses
10 come into play if the harvestable surplus is greater
11 than 150. The nested ANS in Unit 22E can be a little
12 bit complicated.

13
14 That's not the right word, but what
15 that means is that of the 33 muskox that are available
16 for the harvestable surplus for the population as a
17 whole is 33. If 10 of those were available for harvest
18 in Unit 22E, we might find ourselves in a situation
19 where, yes, in fact we are in a Tier II situation
20 throughout the majority of the range, but in 22E in
21 particular we're in a Tier II situation.

22
23 Again, the triggers for different hunt
24 administration styles or whatnot is again based on
25 those ANS values and that's 100 to 150 for the entire
26 population and again the nested ANS of 10 to 25 for
27 22E.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, this is
30 Fred. You said there is 33 harvestable muskox. Is
31 that between the State and the Federal or just on the
32 State side?

33
34 MR. DUNKER: So the harvestable surplus
35 is shared between the State administration and the
36 Federal cooperators. That includes the BLM and the
37 National Park Service. The current agreement is that
38 we issue the entire harvestable surplus as Tier II
39 permits and we issue an additional one-third of that
40 harvestable surplus as Federal permits and that's been
41 the case for many years now and seems to be working in
42 terms of achieving our overall harvest objective of not
43 exceeding that 2 percent of the population as a whole.

44
45 I think there's some other benefits
46 there in that we're accounting for success rates and
47 things like that, providing additional opportunity,
48 still meeting those harvest quotas and really utilizing
49 kind of the best of both worlds between the Federal
50

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1 system and the State system as well.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you.

4

5 Yes, Tom.

6

7 MR. GRAY: I'm looking at this report
8 here and you just alluded to the permits that are
9 handed out. The State is issuing in this case 35
10 permits, is that correct?

11

12 MR. DUNKER: So that's for this current
13 regulatory year. The 33 would be for the following
14 year.

15

16 MR. GRAY: Next year. So the State is
17 issuing 35 and a third of that 35 is issued by the
18 Feds. Now once there's a quota of 35 available, once
19 that is met, do the rest of the permits get shut down
20 or is there an emergency closure or if you go to 48,
21 you go to 48 and so be it.

22

23 MR. DUNKER: Again we're kind of
24 evaluating success in any given year on whether or not
25 we've exceeded that 2 percent overall harvest rate.
26 Since 2012 when we got back into a Tier II situation
27 we've yet to exceed that 2 percent harvest rate. We do
28 not intent to issue an emergency order to EO a Tier II
29 season closed. So really we just evaluate well last
30 year maybe we didn't meet the whole quota, this year
31 we're over by one or two, and it all kind of comes out
32 in the wash, I guess.

33

34 We're comfortable with that because,
35 again, we're not exceeding that 2 percent overall
36 harvest rate. We're seeing positive trends in
37 population abundance, bull/cow ratios, all that kind of
38 thing. So we don't intend to EO a season closed and
39 the system as it stands right now seems to be working.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Brandon.

42

43 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 I've got a few bear questions. The bears that are
45 harvested is it mostly males -- in 22, sorry. Is it
46 mostly males, mostly females, half and half? Also the
47 average age of bears harvested in 22. And more of kind
48 of a personal question, what's the oldest bear
49 harvested in 22?

50

1 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair to
2 Member Ahmasuk. Good questions. The first question
3 you asked was what is our harvest of males versus
4 females. Unit 22 for our brown bear survey and
5 inventory program one of our management objectives is
6 to have within a three-year time span of 50 percent or
7 greater of our harvest being males.

8
9 We can use that 50 percent to evaluate
10 to see if we start having a sows being brought in that
11 are young or older females that are barren, then we
12 know that we need to like look at our harvest, but we
13 have not seen that. Our harvest overall and our
14 harvest within individual subunits such as A, B, C, D
15 and E are all showing that our harvest of males is over
16 50 percent.

17
18 In terms of age, our age really has not
19 changed in 20-25 years with the take of bears. Our
20 females are showing average age of six and a half to
21 seven years of age and our males are showing six and a
22 half to seven years of age as well. The fact that we
23 have a very proactive bear hunting community and that
24 we are taking the last 20 years consistently 100 bears
25 a year and we are not seeing any sway in those bear
26 size skulls or ages.

27
28 Then your third question about what's
29 the oldest bear for Unit 22 and going off of memory
30 here, but I'd say 30 years old is what came back as the
31 oldest bear that was taken for Unit 22, which is really
32 impressive. I think that's our record going back to
33 1990 to now.

34
35 We've had bears in the 20-year range,
36 the teen range. Most of the bears that we see come
37 through are sub-adult bears and maybe teenage bears.
38 Once in a while we'll have a bear that comes in that
39 you just look at and the molars are falling out of the
40 jaw and you're like this is an old bear.

41
42 We had a bear come in this fall where
43 the hide looked like it was a summer hide. Didn't have
44 any fat on it. It was really questionable until I took
45 a look at the skull and saw like it hardly had any
46 canines, the molar was falling out. No wonder this
47 bear looks like it has a summer hide on it. So it will
48 be interesting to see what the age of that bear is, but
49 30 years is what we have for the oldest bear here.

50

1 MR. AHMASUK: I think it's 31.

2
3 (Laughter)

4
5 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chairman.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Ronald.

8
9 MR. KIRK: I was looking at your quota
10 for Unalakleet antlered moose. You have a quota of 34.
11 Here you have a winter hunt to be announced. My
12 question is how is this quota met? Is it met by the
13 locals themselves or does this involve nonresidential
14 hunters that come in and ask to be guided out of
15 Unalakleet to hunt moose? Do they count with this
16 quota?

17
18 If that's the case, we shouldn't limit
19 Unalakleet to 34 because you're not including -- you're
20 including nonresidents coming in to Unalakleet and
21 having the residents of Unalakleet meet this quota
22 without they themselves not meeting it.

23
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25
26 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair to
27 Member Kirk. So that area of 22A, the Unalakleet
28 drainage, is for Alaska residents only. So how that
29 registration administration is set up is that all the
30 RM841 permits go to the vender in Unalakleet and that
31 vender is the AC store.

32
33 So any Alaska resident could go to
34 Unalakleet and pick up a permit to hunt moose in 22A
35 Unalakleet River drainage. Since this hunt has been
36 going on since 2008 there very very few Alaska
37 residents from outside Unalakleet that are hunting --
38 the take is coming from Unalakleet residents.

39
40 So, to answer your question, there is
41 not any nonresident in that part of the area. If
42 nonresidents are coming into the area, it's just
43 serving as a transportation hub to go into 22A south or
44 the remainder.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Leland.

47
48 MR. OYOUNICK: It seemed like if we're
49 going to be under a quota, we would also limit as to
50

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1 who can be in that quota. I mean it doesn't seem fair.
2 We live there and we have to suffer because our moose
3 is not there and these folks can fly in. If they can
4 fly in, they could go anywhere and hunt moose is what
5 I'm saying.
6

7 I'd like to restrict it more because
8 we're under a quota. I don't know if that can be done,
9 but it seems like that's the way it should be. We live
10 there. We don't go anywhere. We want to live there
11 first of all. They could live there too, but they
12 choose to live somewhere else, okay. That kind of rubs
13 me the wrong way.
14

15 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair to
16 Member Leland. As it stands for registration hunts on
17 the State side, because we're not into a Tier II
18 process, our registration hunts are open to all Alaska
19 residents. However, this quota also has a Federal hunt
20 component to it, which means in order to hunt in that
21 area you need to be a Federally qualified user of that
22 area. So the permits that BLM comes out in August to
23 help give out to Unalakleet hunters it is that.
24

25 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Leland.
26

27 MR. OYOUNICK: Can we not stipulate
28 that for the State hunt also unless the quota is
29 lifted? I mean we're under a quota, you know. We
30 can't fly to somewhere else and hunt moose because we
31 don't have moose there. I don't want to go somewhere
32 else. You know what I'm saying? It's not really fair,
33 but that's the way it is.
34

35 MR. DUNKER: One thing I would point
36 out would be, as you're probably aware, during the late
37 2000s there was a moose moratorium in that area in
38 response to severe declines in the abundance of moose.
39 Kind of following suit with how other moose moratoriums
40 have been carried out, for instance in like Unit 18
41 along the Kuskokwim River, part of the agreement that
42 was reached for after you guys came out of that
43 moratorium was that those permits are only available in
44 the community of Unalakleet.
45

46 That's one of the tools that we have
47 available to us when we're issuing registration
48 permits, is that we can restrict where and when those
49 permits are available. As Letty kind of mentioned,
50

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1 because of the way that those permits are issued very
2 few of them end up going to non-local hunters in that
3 area. Part of that agreement came about because of the
4 understanding that it was local people that sacrificed
5 the opportunity to hunt moose for a period of time in
6 order to let that population to rebuild.

7
8 Looking at the results of the most
9 recent survey it appears that at the very least helped.
10 We see positive growth in that area. We're increasing
11 the harvest quota. Things are improving and a lot of
12 that is due to some of the sacrifices that were made
13 for several years by local people.

14
15 In order for us to further restrict
16 what State residents can hunt in that particular area
17 would require a Tier II situation. As it stands right
18 now the amount necessary for subsistence for moose in
19 Unit 22 is a unit-wide ANS. It's 250 to 300 moose.
20 Historically and presently the amount of moose that's
21 available for harvest in any given year in Unit 22
22 typically hovers right around that upper threshold of
23 300. This year we're at 315.

24
25 So unless we find ourselves below the
26 lower end of that ANS 250 that's the only instance
27 where we would be able to further restrict which Alaska
28 residents can obtain permits to hunt moose in any given
29 area within Unit 22.

30
31 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair. I have a
32 question for Staff.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Louis.

35
36 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Bill
37 and Letty, you guys spoke to the bear number. I heard
38 Tommy was worried about the bear counts. We said that
39 100 bears per year for the last 20 years is the
40 average. That's what I've always understood to. To me
41 there's no increased pressure on bears through the hunt
42 process if we're taking the same number average per
43 year. It hasn't gone up. The only place I've seen it
44 go up is in 22C, which is great for me because I don't
45 believe that a bear population should be allowed to be
46 around the human population the way it is there.

47
48 Am I tracking correctly on this on the
49 100 bears per year and there's no real increase on
50

1 overall bear hunting?

2

3 MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair to
4 Member Green. Right. I mean that's an average of 100
5 bears a year that are being taken for the last 20
6 years. The last two years that harvest has been 110
7 bears, 116 bears respectively. A lot of that we're
8 seeing that increase because of Unit 22C going from one
9 bear bag limit every regulatory year. That's just
10 what's coming to us reported.

11

12 I wanted to address -- this gives me a
13 really good opportunity to address the bear survey
14 questions that have come up the last couple days. In
15 1991, Alaska Department of Fish and Game did a brown
16 bear survey, so we're talking about 25 years ago. What
17 that survey consisted of was spending two years putting
18 out radio collars on bears, tracking some of the
19 movement, and then in 1991 doing this bear survey.
20 Very expensive, very time consuming.

21

22 Studying predators very, very expensive
23 because they're such an elusive species. They don't
24 stand out like muskox or moose or caribou. Those
25 things will dive down into a hole and you're never
26 going to see them again while you're flying around.

27

28 So we knew between the Department and
29 the National Park Service that we needed to know what
30 was going on with the bears. So the National Park
31 Service came up with a technique that could be done
32 within a timeframe versus three years. There wouldn't
33 have to be collars put on. There wouldn't have to be
34 marking movements and then the third year doing the
35 study.

36

37 Their technique would -- well, it's
38 different. It would be similar to what was done in the
39 1991 survey. So in a density level the 1991 survey was
40 2000 square kilometers and it really consisted more of
41 within the 22C Nome area, going a little bit north up
42 into the Kuzitrin/Pilgrim area. Whereas the survey
43 from 2015 consisted of 20,000 square miles starting up
44 in BELA and then coming south into 22C.

45

46 So really the 2015 survey area is more
47 representative of the Central Seward Peninsula and
48 really what's happening out there on that landscape.
49 Results between the 1991 survey and the 2015 survey are

50

1 not significantly different. We're talking 30 bears
2 versus 36 bears every 1,000 square kilometers.

3
4 So those two points not very different,
5 but like what Member Gray brings up is what's happened
6 10 years ago, what happened in between these 25 years.
7 We don't know about the family groups or the
8 distribution or maybe numbers did climb or they went
9 down and climbed back up. We really don't know, but
10 based on the harvest data that we have is that we're
11 consistent with an annual take of 100 bears average a
12 year.

13
14 MR. GRAY: Can I say something?

15
16 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Tom.

17
18 MR. GRAY: I'd like to point out that
19 the study area you did did not include the area that I
20 have been guiding in let's say for the last 20 years.
21 It doesn't include the -- the study area that you have
22 there's a big portion of that area that's inaccessible
23 and there's nobody in there. The area that I keep
24 harping about is on the road system. It's an area that
25 not only in the fall time people are hunting. I mean
26 people are scouring this area in the springtime. You
27 can't compare it. It's apples and oranges.

28
29 You can't compare an area that has not
30 had the hunters in it compared to a million-acre area
31 that's been just blasted with hunters. I've been in
32 there. I've lived in there for 20 years, guiding in
33 there. I look at my pictures of bears that I've taken
34 over the past 20 years and I'm taking babies now in
35 comparison.

36
37 This is why I keep coming back and you
38 hear me all the time saying let's go do a bear survey.
39 Let's study these animals. If there's a cheap way to
40 do a bear survey so be it. But if we're going to
41 consider going to a two bear a year area, I think it
42 needs to be justified by qualifying the two bear a year
43 by science and making sure you're addressing a
44 scientific need to lower the numbers or whatever.

45
46 Again, I say we need a survey just
47 looking at the numbers of what's happened here in 22C
48 in the last couple of years. The public is going to
49 jump up and down, hooray, kill them all, kill them all,

50

1 and they're not going to be happy until there isn't a
2 live bear left. I mean that's life.

3

4 Maybe I should quit bitching about it
5 and let it happen because you know the next thing
6 they're going to do is say, golly, you can manage
7 mosquitos and we'll be happy when that's gone. We all
8 have objectives in life and managing the resource to
9 your best ability is not only my job, but it's Fish and
10 Game and managers need to manage it.

11

12

Anyway, good luck.

13

14

I won't harp anymore.

15

16

17

Hopefully you see it through my eyes
someday.

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

MS. HUGHES: Through the Chair to
Member Gray. I do understand your concern definitely.
With liberalizing bear regulations, especially going to
a two bear bag limit, it's definitely not to be taken
lightly. It's one of those where harvest is going to
have to be scrutinized more looking at, you know, our
data, our ratio of harvest, females and males. Start
looking at more the age.

27

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36

If we see any changes in our data where
we're taking more females or we see a drop in our
average age, then we need to go back as a Department
and reevaluate our harvest and maybe some regulations
as well. That's just saying it's not going to be
overlooked. It is something that we are looking at in
addition to looking at family groups, movement of
bears. Those are all questions that definitely need to
be looked at.

37

38

39

ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you. Do
we have any more questions, comments from the RAC.

40

41

42

Yes, Elmer.

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. SEETOT: I just have a comment.
Being at subsistence spring camp for seals along the
bay I noticed that muskox use the spit for a calving
area. They're pretty much present at the end of April
to maybe early fall, which used to be the Coast Guard
Loran station. They have all the feed possible for a
summer stay there because I walked around that area and

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1 it's been like that for quite a number of years. 22D
2 southwest portion.

3
4 Whatever animals that are in the
5 tundra, whenever they're threatened by bears or wolves,
6 as recently as two months ago I think there was two
7 wolves that were in and around the reindeer herd,
8 pushed the muskox toward the spit and that's pretty
9 much a safe haven for muskox calving.

10
11 That's what we have noticed over the
12 past 20 years at least. My in-laws have a camp down
13 there and they noticed that the muskox really stay
14 around there during the calving area. So that's a
15 special interest I guess for muskox anyway.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you. If
20 we have no further comments or questions, thank you,
21 ADF&G.

22
23 I'll call for a quick 10-minute break.

24
25 (Off record)

26
27 (On record)

28
29 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Okay. Call
30 the meeting back to order. Next on the agenda we have
31 big game harvest data, Brevig Mission, Teller and White
32 Mountain by Beth.

33
34 MS. MIKOW: Mr. Chair. Members of the
35 Council. I'm Beth Mikow. I work for the Division of
36 Subsistence out of Fairbanks. Just to talk about a
37 little bit of staffing changeover. You may have
38 noticed that Nikki Braem is now with the National Park
39 Service. I've taken her position over, so that's the
40 major staffing change for the Northern Region. I'm the
41 arctic lead, so Seward Peninsula, Kotzebue area and the
42 North Slope.

43
44 So today I'm going to present some
45 subsistence big game harvest survey findings from
46 Brevig Mission, Teller and White Mountain. The study
47 year is 2015-2016. A little background on these
48 surveys. We do yearly harvest surveys in Units 22 and
49 23. TWC provides funding for that. We generally do
50

1 between three and four communities. They're really
2 short and just ask about caribou, moose, bear, wolves
3 and wolverines.
4

5 If you turn to slide 2, basically our
6 field work for this project happened in late April
7 through late May 2016. Again, the study period was
8 from May 2015 to April 2016, so we were asking people
9 to have like a year of recall for their harvests.
10

11 Our sample achievement varied a little
12 bit. Our attempt is to survey every household. In
13 Brevig Mission we got 66 percent of households. In
14 Teller, we actually got 100 percent. I've never seen
15 that happen, so that was a pretty cool moment. White
16 Mountain 91 percent.
17

18 Basically what we do is we train local
19 research assistants to go out to households to conduct
20 the surveys, so we couldn't have completed the project
21 without them. We had four local research assistants in
22 Brevig, four in Teller and five in White Mountain.
23

24 So for harvest and use of caribou we
25 don't just ask about the number of animals people take.
26 We also ask if a household used caribou during the
27 study year, if they received it, if they gave it away.
28 It kind of accounts for sharing and how important that
29 is in subsistence economies.
30

31 So in Brevig Mission 94 percent of
32 households used caribou during the study year compared
33 with only 19 percent of households harvesting. So
34 again that's a huge element of sharing. In Teller, 47
35 percent of households used caribou, 17 percent actually
36 harvested the resource. In White Mountain 92 percent
37 of households used while 31 percent harvested.
38

39 Success rates, which aren't on this
40 slide but I'll just go over kind of varied -- while a
41 small percentage of households may have gone to hunt,
42 their success rates were pretty high. 83 percent of
43 households that hunted in Brevig Mission were
44 successful in getting caribou, 93 percent of households
45 in Teller were successful and 65 percent of households
46 in White Mountain.
47

48 So for total harvest of caribou in 2015
49 and 2016 Brevig Mission harvested 90 caribou. I'd like
50

1 to talk about it in pounds per person because the
2 number of caribou doesn't always tell the whole story,
3 so you can see basically how much food that's
4 contributing to the community. So those 90 caribou
5 basically provided 35 pounds approximately per person.
6 In Teller there were 29 caribou harvested or 16 pounds
7 per person. White Mountain 65 caribou, which was 45
8 pounds of meat per person.

9
10 Just to put it in kind of historical
11 context, we have a few study years for the different
12 communities. In Brevig Mission this was basically
13 equal to the highest study year that we have. In 2000
14 there was also 35 pounds per capita caribou harvested.
15 In Teller, this was the highest of all the four survey
16 years, 16 pounds per capita in comparison to 12 pounds
17 in 2000 and 10 pounds in 2011 and in 2005 Teller got no
18 caribou.

19
20 White Mountain actually had the second
21 lowest harvest that they'd had over the four study
22 years for which we have data, so just to kind of
23 compare harvest with other information that we have.

24
25 If you flip to slide five it shows the
26 harvest timing. For Brevig Mission most of the harvest
27 occurred between November 2015 and April 2016. The
28 highest month of harvest was -- actually they're about
29 equal in December, February and April. During the
30 study year 97 percent of the harvest were bull caribou.

31
32 If you flip to slide six this is
33 Teller's harvest timing for caribou. A majority
34 occurred in the fall. The breakdown of caribou in
35 Teller was 76 percent of the harvest was bulls, 7
36 percent were cows and 17 percent were unknown.

37
38 If you flip to slide seven, this is the
39 harvest timing for White Mountain. Their largest month
40 of harvest by far was April of 2016. The harvest
41 breakdown here 54 percent were bulls, 34 percent were
42 cows and respondents couldn't remember the sex for 12
43 percent of the caribou that they harvested.

44
45 Slide eight shows a map of just general
46 harvest locations. We break down the game management
47 unit into UCUs, uniform coding units, but it's just
48 basically discreet geographical areas generally with a
49 river drainage involved or some kind of landmark.

50

1 Brevig Mission, the largest component
2 of harvest happened in an area containing the Kuzitrin
3 River drainage, that was 45 percent of the harvest.
4 The rest were kind of scattered around the community to
5 the northeast. There was some harvest further to the
6 southeast near Council.

7
8 Slide number nine shows the same for
9 Teller, 76 percent of all caribou harvest actually
10 occurred in the general vicinity of the community
11 itself. The rest were in nearby UCUs.

12
13 Slide 10, the same thing for White
14 Mountain. Over 50 percent of the caribou harvest in
15 White Mountain occurred in the area of McCarthy Marsh
16 to the north of the community and the rest were
17 scattered on either side of that and some to the
18 northwest.

19
20 Slide 11 is harvest and use of moose.
21 Just like I kind of talked about with caribou, seeing
22 use levels with households kind of indicate sharing.
23 In Brevig Mission 85 percent of households used moose
24 while 26 percent harvested. Teller 55 percent of
25 households used moose while 17 percent harvested. In
26 White Mountain 92 percent of households used moose
27 while 22 percent harvested.

28
29 The success rate for moose harvest was
30 a little bit lower than caribou. For households that
31 actually hunted in each community, 73 percent of the
32 hunters in Brevig were successful, 72 percent in Teller
33 and only 45 percent in White Mountain.

34
35 Just like caribou, we like to talk
36 about it in terms of pounds per person. In Brevig
37 Mission there was a total of 21 moose harvested, which
38 was 33 pounds per person. In Teller, 15 moose, which
39 gave 32 pounds per person. In White Mountain, 14
40 moose, which contributed 49 pounds per person.

41
42 Brevig Mission in 2015 had the second
43 highest harvest over four years for which we have data,
44 so we had surveys done in 2000, 2005, 2011 and this
45 current study year. So it was the second highest
46 harvest. Teller had the highest recorded harvest over
47 those four study years. White Mountain actually had a
48 fairly similar harvest to the other four years for
49 which we have data. Their harvest have ranged between
50

1 33 pounds per person to 43 pounds per person. So it
2 was right in that range.
3

4 Slide 13 shows similar maps to the
5 caribou but for moose. In Brevig Mission 52 percent of
6 the harvest occurred in that maroon area. It includes
7 the Agiapuk River drainage.
8

9 The next slide shows Teller. Much like
10 the caribou, 60 percent of the moose harvest happened
11 in the vicinity of the community in that UCU which
12 contains the community itself.
13

14 Slide 15 is White Mountain. 62 percent
15 of the harvest of moose occurred in the area
16 surrounding the community and the rest were directly to
17 the north.
18

19 Slide 16 just shows some of the other
20 things that we asked about on the survey. I didn't
21 want to get into huge detail on the use rates. In
22 Brevig Mission six wolves and two wolverines were
23 harvested in 2015 and 2016. In Teller, there was one
24 brown bear and one wolverine. In White Mountain, there
25 were two brown bears, one wolf and one wolverine.
26

27 The last slide that I'll show you is
28 one of the major parts of the survey that I think is
29 important that gives people a chance to give us
30 comments and let us know how things are going. In all
31 communities there were many comments with concerns of
32 are our predator populations increasing or just simply
33 too many predators in the area.
34

35 Brevig Mission and Teller residents
36 discussed difficulty getting to the caribou,
37 availability in the nearby vicinity. White Mountain
38 there were a few comments about concerns over the
39 length of the moose hunting season. They mention
40 increased bag limits but I think they mean more like
41 the quota concerns that it gets shut down before they
42 can get what they feel they need.
43

44 So that's the results of that survey.
45 I know everybody is tired, so I didn't want to go into
46 great detail.
47

48 Any questions. I'll be happy to take
49 them.
50

1 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Leland.

2

3 MR. OYOUNICK: Yes, I have a question.

4 Does this survey include the guides that fly out of
5 Teller or Brevig?

6

7 MS. MIKOW: Through the Chair. It's
8 actually just households in the community itself. So
9 this is just a subsistence harvest survey for community
10 households. We're just trying to get a handle on
11 community harvest.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, Elmer.

14

15 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot of Brevig
16 Mission. On the harvest density on the caribou harvest
17 it showed 40. This was towards Davidson's Landing.
18 That's within 50 miles of Brevig Mission. I put a
19 concern on the Noatak Controlled Use Area yesterday.
20 One, if they disturb the caribou on their migration way
21 up north, then they have a different route.

22

23 With this 40 harvested near Davidson
24 Landing the caribou went through Bendeleben Mountain
25 Range and through Mary's Igloo or Chicken Hill
26 Mountain. So that's how come the harvest was very high
27 in that area that year. A lot of moose came in. They
28 found new forage within the hills along with the
29 reindeer and the caribou and they were there pretty
30 much the whole winter until the wolves came in and
31 scattered them up.

32

33 If someone told me that the caribou --
34 if you look at Teller, it's on the southwest side. If
35 somebody told me that the caribou were there, I
36 wouldn't have to travel all the way to Bendeleben
37 Mountain.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MR. SEETOT: I think it was Teller
42 classifying reindeer as caribou, period. I really
43 haven't seen any caribou that went east or west of the
44 Teller Road. Only one time did I wrestle down a
45 caribou during the reindeer roundup and that was a bull
46 that was pretty high, but they're easy to wrestle down.

47

48 Last year they were milling around
49 Serpentine River, Hot Springs, Teller area, Kigluaik

50

1 Mountain area and they came in from the north side
2 around Agiapuk and majority of the caribou that were
3 harvested were pretty much bulls that came in after the
4 snow fell.

5
6 The six that were pretty much harvested
7 were from around the Bendeleben Mountain ranges.
8 Pretty much as far as probably Boston Creek on the
9 western portion to maybe about Libby Creek on the west
10 side. Within that place, Boston Creek being on the
11 eastern portion and then Libby, there's usually a lot
12 of caribou because the lava beds are up here and they
13 use the lava beds quite a bit when conditions are
14 right.

15
16 There is a lot of winter feed in and
17 around Davidsons Landing, but we did not see them last
18 year too much around that area because there was about
19 four wolf packs using the eastern portion of Imuruk
20 Basin as their highway to the reindeer herd. There was
21 about 13 to 20 wolves that were using the road corridor
22 and then they were going through probably Mosquito Pass
23 on the Nome side and we haven't been able to harvest
24 any of those. I'm not too sure if Shishmaref was able
25 to harvest part of that wolf pack that usually go up
26 around Serpentine River Hot Springs or around the lava
27 beds.

28
29 So if the harvest is close by, then
30 they usually come in through Bendeleben Mountains and
31 that makes it easier for people to travel toward the
32 east because there's established snowmachine trails and
33 some cabins there about 30 miles east of Brevig and
34 then they go out from there to wherever the caribou
35 were. After that they went straight towards Kougarak
36 Mountains to migrate back.

37
38 That's how come we had a very good
39 caribou harvest during that year because the caribou
40 were close by. We do have bands of caribou at least 10
41 miles north of Brevig within the mountain ranges, but
42 those are harder to get to because that range is a lot
43 tougher than going direct east.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you,
48 Elmer. Any other comments, questions.

49
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you,
4 Beth, for that presentation.

5

6 MS. MIKOW: Thanks for taking the time.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Next we have
9 on the agenda OSM.

10

11 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 Members of the Council. Hello. It's been a while since
13 we chatted, so good to catch up again with an OSM
14 report. Kind of a few updates for your.

15

16 First we'll start with the staffing
17 update. We have some new positions. Jennifer Hardin,
18 who was our anthropology division chief has been
19 transferred over to and is now our subsistence policy
20 coordinator. Dr. Hardin has quite a lot of experience
21 over her career working with Federal agencies and
22 tribal governments.

23

24 Prior to joining us at OSM she was the
25 American Indian liaison and park anthropologist at
26 Yosemite National Park. In addition to her prior role
27 in anthropology Jennifer has also held the position as
28 our acting fisheries division chief at OSM. So with
29 the combination of her experiences she's had a lot of
30 roles in shaping our Fisheries Resource Monitoring
31 Program that we discussed earlier.

32

33 Christine Brummer was hired as a
34 Pathways student while attending UAA in her
35 anthropology studies. The Pathways Program is kind of
36 the bridge to help people achieve permanent Federal
37 employment after they finish school. She is from
38 Anchorage and has two bachelor's degrees and is now
39 working on her master's degree in anthropology while
40 she's with us.

41

42 Thomas Doolittle was hired as the
43 Deputy Assistant Regional Director. He started his
44 career with the National Park Service and then worked
45 for 12 years as a fish and wildlife biologist and a
46 program supervisor and then also a law enforcement
47 supervisor and warden for the Bad River Band of Lake
48 Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians in Wisconsin.

49

50

1 He came to Alaska as the supervisory
2 biologist and later the Deputy Refuge Manager at the
3 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. Went back to
4 Wisconsin for a little bit after seven years in Alaska
5 and then came back briefly for the Forest Service
6 before joining us at the Office of Subsistence
7 Management.

8
9 So those are our new hires and new
10 positions. We've had some folks leave us who have been
11 with us for a while. Don Rivard, who was with OSM for
12 some 17 years. He was one of our main Yukon River
13 fisheries biologists. And then Palma Ingles retired
14 as an anthropologist. So Don Rivard retired and then
15 Palma retired. And then our receptionist Sabrina
16 Schmidt left her position. Her husband is in the
17 military and they got transferred. So we have some
18 vacancies right now.

19
20 There is somewhat of a hiring freeze in
21 place for some of these higher-level positions. We
22 have to get approval through D.C., but for some of the
23 more administrative type positions we hopefully should
24 be able to fill those relatively soon.

25
26 I also wanted to update you on one more
27 thing before I give the microphone over to Gene.
28 You've seen this around. This is our fisheries
29 regulation book. Despite the fact that it has a date
30 on here through 31 March 2017 these are still the
31 fisheries regulations that are in place.

32
33 Basically whenever you make a
34 recommendation to the Board and when the Board adopts
35 regulations, they stay in place until they are
36 rescinded or replaced by something else. So these are
37 still in effect and the reason for that is we've had
38 kind of a long process in getting D.C. to approve the
39 new fisheries regulations for publication in the
40 Federal Regulations books. Until that happens we have
41 to hold off on releasing the new fish regs book with
42 the new updated regulations. Until that time these are
43 still the ones in effect.

44
45 I'll pass it over to Gene for some
46 budget updates and whatever else he has up his sleeve.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

1 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. Council
2 Members. Gene Peltola, Jr., ARD of OSM. I just wanted
3 to address the budgetary scenario for OSM this year.
4 Currently we're under a continuing resolution up until
5 December 8th, which means we could spend at last year's
6 funding level. Since the portion of the year we have
7 approximately 18 percent of last year's budget
8 available to OSM for expenditure in this fiscal year
9 currently.

10
11 I'd like to remind the Council that the
12 President's Budget, which was made public a while back,
13 shows a potential for up to a 15 percent reduction in
14 the Fish and Wildlife Service budget. That's where our
15 funding for OSM and the Federal Subsistence Program
16 comes through. In short, we will not know what our
17 final budget will be probably until well after the
18 beginning of the calendar year. We hope that it's not
19 a significant reduction in budget, but if it is then
20 we'll continue to do the best we can to support the
21 Regional Advisory Council and the Federal Subsistence
22 Program process.

23
24 Historically, and up to this past year,
25 we've been funded about \$9.5 million for the program as
26 a whole and that's significantly down from the peak of
27 our budgets, which were about 2009 or so. That's all I
28 had to report with regard to the budget. Myself and
29 Carl could answer any general questions about OSM that
30 you may have or we could at least try to.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, thank
33 you. Do we have any questions or comments from the
34 Council.

35
36 Yes, Tom.

37
38 MR. GRAY: I'm getting tired, so I'll
39 make it short, I guess. You say it's down from your
40 budget -- what you're anticipating is down from the
41 past. How much down are we talking and how is that
42 going to affect this board if it is going to affect
43 this board?

44
45 MR. PELTOLA: The highest budgetary
46 levels the Federal Subsistence Program attained were
47 prior to and including 2009, which were just below \$15
48 million. The most recent budget reduction that was
49 absorbed by the Federal Subsistence Program was a
50

1 couple years ago when we went through sequestration.
2 The last couple years we were pretty much flat funded
3 coming to OSM about \$9.5 million.
4

5 If we maintain that level of funding,
6 we could continue to support the Regional Advisory
7 Council, all the Councils throughout the state to
8 travel and meeting cycles, in addition to having a
9 significant portion of funding continuing to go to the
10 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. So as long as
11 we maintain flat level funding we should not see any
12 significant changes to the Federal Subsistence Program.
13

14 If we end up seeing any reductions in
15 this fiscal year or the future, then we'd have to look
16 at the best mechanisms and how the program would absorb
17 those and minimize the impact on the program and the
18 process we represent.
19

20 MR. GRAY: You mentioned earlier that
21 you're expecting a 15 percent reduction, did I hear
22 that right, which would put it at about 8 million. If
23 we're at 8 million, is that going to affect this
24 Council?
25

26 MR. PELTOLA: Yes, the budget coming
27 from the President's office represented roughly a 15
28 percent reduction in the budget of the Fish and
29 Wildlife Service. If that is realized, yes, there
30 would be significant impacts not only to the Regional
31 Advisory Council here in Seward Pen, but all of our
32 Regional Advisory Councils in addition to the Fisheries
33 Resource Monitoring Program and the Partners Program
34 and those are two main sources of outflow of funding to
35 support projects throughout the state. There could be
36 a significant impact on the program if we do realize
37 that level of a cut.
38

39 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Any further
40 comments, questions from the Council.
41

42 MR. GRAY: So if there's impacts and
43 I'm just kind of grasping at straws, is there going to
44 be dialogue from this Council to somebody, OSM, as to
45 what this Council is going to look like and what its
46 mission in life will be?
47

48 MR. PELTOLA: Council Member Gray. The
49 role and mission of all the Regional Advisory Councils,
50

1 including the Seward Pen Council, will still remain the
2 same. OSM would have to get creative with the funding
3 that we have and how to provide the appropriate support
4 to the Regional Advisory Councils. There are some
5 options that we may consider in the future. We kind of
6 have those on the back burner now.

7
8 If we do receive cuts to the program,
9 then we hope they're not as significant as we initially
10 were exposed to. When it comes to that time then we
11 would definitely engage with the Regional Advisory
12 Council. Maybe reach out to the Chairs and convey the
13 ideas on how to minimize the impact on the program that
14 we have come up with.

15
16 MR. JOHNSON: I'll add to that. One of
17 the values of Councils taking advantage of their annual
18 report processes over the years we've had concerns
19 expressed by various Councils about impacts and budget
20 cuts because this is something that's been going on for
21 some time. So we've actually analyzed those annual
22 reports and prepared a memo for if anybody ever asks us
23 what the Councils think about impacts of budget to
24 their staff support, their ability to meet in rural
25 communities, we do have that information and we are
26 able to share it if the time comes.

27
28 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. I present
29 that information not necessarily as a doomsday
30 projection, but I wanted to make sure that the Regional
31 Council was aware of it such that if we do have
32 reductions in this budget that it's not a total
33 surprise.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you. I
36 do believe in our previous meetings we had discussions
37 on increasing our stipend or per diem, so we can't even
38 discuss that now with the decrease of funding we're
39 going to be getting.

40
41 Is there any other further comments
42 from the RAC.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Hearing none.
47 Thank you.

48
49 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you for the
50

1 opportunity.

2

3

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

4

5

ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Okay. Let's confirm our winter 2018 meeting dates, location and select our fall 2018 meeting dates and location. Let's do the winter 2018.

9

10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 At the last Council meeting the Council selected Nome
12 as the location and the dates were March 5th through
13 6th.

14

15

16

ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Do we have consensus for March 5 and 6 for our winter meeting.

17

18

MR. GRAY: It's good for me.

19

20

MR. GREEN: Good for Louis.

21

22

23

24

ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Okay. For our 2018 winter we'll have it at Nome March 5 and 6. Let's go to our fall 2018 meeting date and location.

25

26

27

28

29

30

MR. GRAY: This same time of year is good for me. My schedule gets so mixed up as we get in towards November and December. I don't know where I'm going to be and what I'm doing, but this year worked out great for me, this timing in October.

31

32

33

34

ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Just note please that we have AFN October 18, 19 and 20.

35

36

37

MR. GRAY: How about the 23rd, 24th for next year?

38

39

40

ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Discussion on whether to have it on 23rd and 24th.

41

42

43

MR. GREEN: This is Louis. I don't have a problem with it.

44

45

46

47

ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: If the 23rd and 24th is okay, yeah, we need a motion to select that date and the location.

48

49

50

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, how do you feel about it?

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1 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: I feel okay.
2 At least if I do attend AFN next year I'll be able to
3 go home for a few days.

4
5 MR. GREEN: I'll make the motion then,
6 23rd and 24th.

7
8 MR. GRAY: I second.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Do we need to
11 include in the motion the location of the meeting? Can
12 you rephrase your motion, please.

13
14 MR. GREEN: In Nome, sorry.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: thank you.

17
18 MR. GRAY: And I second.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Second by Tom.
21 Discussion.

22
23 MR. SEETOT: Question.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: The question
26 has been called. All those in favor signify by saying
27 aye.

28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: All those
32 opposed same.

33
34 (No opposing votes)

35
36 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Motion carried
37 to have our next fall meeting October 23 and 24 at
38 Nome. We're down to closing comments. We'll start on
39 the left side of the table.

40
41 MR. GRAY: I'm kind of tired of
42 talking.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: That's why I
45 got you first.

46
47 MR. GRAY: So I'm going to say great
48 meeting, see you guys next year.

49
50

1 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Yeah, great meeting. This was my second one, maybe
3 third one. I would like to thank Fred for chairing.
4 He did a really good job. He was telling me that he
5 didn't do it before, but he fooled me.

6
7 So good meeting. Thanks.

8
9 MR. SACCHEUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 Yeah, that was a good meeting we had today. I thank
11 you for my plaque. I thank you very much and I hope
12 you guys have a good winter, but I'll see you on
13 October 23 and 24. Thank you. Oh, March. Sorry about
14 that.

15
16 MR. KIRK: Thank you for chairing the
17 meeting, Fred. It was good. I enjoyed it. I'll see
18 you in March.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MR. OYOUNICK: Hopefully we can find
23 out some answers from all those chinook we lost. If
24 they're doing it on the high seas, I'd like to see an
25 answer as to what they do with their fish if they catch
26 them.

27
28 Thank you for having a good meeting,
29 Fred.

30
31 Thank you very much.

32
33 MR. SEETOT: Winter meeting
34 appointments are expiring, I think, for the Council
35 Members. I've been on there since 1994 and I'm kind of
36 hesitant of going back on the Council, but our
37 coordinator told me to sign in and put in the
38 paperwork. I just have to look at things the way they
39 are. Weather is a big factor whenever I travel.
40 That's how come I was kind of hesitant for October and
41 March meetings. They're pretty much some of the
42 windiest times of the year.

43
44 I'm getting on in age. I think -- I
45 appreciate living in the villages more than just coming
46 into a meeting. Thirty-five years ago I could have
47 stayed here forever without even going home, but things
48 have changed over the years and that's a pretty big
49 impact. For every one that attended I thank you very
50

1 much for all the information you have put out.

2

3 Some of this is going to be challenging
4 because we have an administration that isn't very
5 normal in my sense, so we have to kind of look at that.
6 I thank the coordinator and Mr. Fred for chairing this
7 meeting. I think he did a very good job. All of you
8 have a nice trip home and enjoy the holidays.

9

10 Until next time.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Yes, thank you
15 for bearing with me. It's my first time chairing a
16 meeting. It's a learning experience. I didn't know I
17 was elected as co-Chair until I got my packet. I
18 didn't know about it for almost half a year that I was
19 elected the co-Chair. Next time please let me be at
20 the meeting if you want to nominate me.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MR. GREEN: You did a great job.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thanks for
27 everybody that participated and hopefully everything
28 will go smoothly with our regulations and creating
29 them.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 Do we have Louis online yet?

34

35 MR. GREEN: Yeah, I'm still here.
36 Fred, you did a suburb job. I told you you'd be good
37 at it. You did a good job. I know I surprised you
38 with what was going on with my life here, so I really
39 appreciate you doing what you did. You did a great job
40 and everybody has told you the same.

41

42 I'd like to thank the Staff for
43 providing the good information and taking those good
44 questions and to the public that attended. Elmer,
45 you're not that old yet.

46

47 And, Clarence, congratulations on your
48 award there. I didn't realize how much ground you
49 covered in your time, but I really appreciate it.

50

1 Again, Fred, thank you for what you did
2 there. You did a really good job. Thanks.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you,
5 Louis. We have a closing comment from Karen.

6
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
8 I too want to echo the Council's appreciation for your
9 chairmanship. You've done a spectacular job and we
10 really appreciate it.

11
12 I also want to make a statement on
13 behalf of OSM and I'm sure the board as well is to
14 extend our appreciation to this Council and to the
15 members. You are volunteers for the Federal
16 Subsistence Management Program. We realize that you
17 leave your homes, your families, your hunting grounds.
18 You come here, you don't get paid and you do a
19 tremendous amount of work for your communities and for
20 this program.

21
22 We talked earlier about how we need to
23 improve outreach to the communities and that's true, we
24 do. It's always going to need improvement because it's
25 a big job. But sitting here for two days and listening
26 to the knowledge shared by all the Council members I
27 feel from my perspective that we have your communities
28 here, that you're connected to those communities and
29 that you bring some amazing information to the table
30 for us to hear and for us to learn.

31
32 So we thank you for that.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Thank you. Do
35 we have a motion to adjourn the meeting.

36
37 MR. KIRK: So move.

38
39 MR. GREEN: Second.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Second.
42 Discussion. All those in favor of adjourning the
43 meeting signify by saying aye.

44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: All those
48 opposed.

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1 MR. GRAY: Aye.

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ACTING CHAIR ENINGOWUK: Unanimous.
Motion carried to adjourn. Thank you.

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

